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SURVIVAL IS THE ACQUAINTANCE
OF EXCELLENCE

NEW YORK BUSINESS DISTRICT AS IT APPEARS TODAY

Belmond's Beginnings

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF BELMONT

What they saw, when first they came,
On horseback, in covered wagons, walking,
Was but sod untilled, forest without name;
But, there was something besides, talking
To the strangers, looking for a home —
The river, the woods, the hill, beckoning —
It was a good land. Why longer roam
When all could add heart-sick reckoning
Of days of travel, women tired, a child
Sick of fever. Here was a home-place, winning
Approval from the settlers. So, they filed
Their claims and Belmond had its small beginning.
Here they laid out the plan for a village, a town
To become our Belmond, now a place of renown.

—Ella Luick



BELMOND'S MAIN STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT AS IT APPEARS TODAY

The Town of Belmond

The town of Belmond is situated partly in Pleasant, partly in Belmond townships, in Wright County, Iowa. Wright County was organized as a county on August 5, 1855. Pleasant township is the extreme northeastern subdivision of Wright County as now divided into civil townships. It was ordered set off on March 5, 1856 and its boundaries were defined as the "east half of the county." The first township officials were elected in April of 1856 and were — Justices of the peace — J. M. Elder and Robert Rowen, Constables — William Clifford and James G. Riley, Township clerk — William E. Rogers, Trustees — William B. Walters, Edwin Ballou and Henry Luick, Assessor — Washington Dumond, Road Supervisor — Anthony Overacker. Dumond resigned within a month of his election and J. M. Elder was appointed in his place thus really becoming the first



DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET, 1867

man to assess the township. In 1860 the part of Pleasant township now called Belmond township was separated from Pleasant township upon petition of Henry Luick and others, the petition being signed by a majority of the voters — 31 in number. The first officers of Belmond township were Elias Dumond, William Whited and A. Elder, trustees, and George A. McKay, clerk.

The main part of the town of Belmond was orig-

inally situated on the west side of the Iowa River and was platted by Archibald Dumond, James M. Elder and William E. Rogers on October 20, 1856. Soon Dr. Cutler became associated with others and platted on the east side of the stream and the town subsequently grew mainly on the East side. Archibald Dumond desired to call the town "Crown Point" for his Indiana home. Others wanted to call it Dumond. When the name Dumond was sent to be registered, it was found that there was a town by the name of Dumont in the state, so the name must be changed. Legend has it that the name Belmond was arrived at in this manner —

Dumond's daughter was a very popular young lady, the "belle" of the community, and the compromise was made by the happy thought of honoring both father and daughter, the "belle" and "mond" being joined into "Belmond." Belmond is said to be the only town in the United States of that name.

On October 21, 1881, by a vote of fifty-one to forty-seven, Belmond became an incorporated town, with J. L. Morse, first mayor, E. S. Hubbard, recorder, David Luick, G. G. Pritchard, R. M. Cameron, G. H. Richardson, J. B. Brewsaugh and D. L. Cuppet, trustees.

The mayors of Belmond have been J. L. Morse, R. M. Cameron, S. D. Pierce, L. B. Clark, N. Reese, J. B. Brewsaugh, J. L. Klemme, Col. T. B. Kaufman, M. S. Paige, W. A. Bartholomew, J. H. Reese, Val Griesy, Theodore Wright, W. C. Ramsay, M. C. Barry, R. C. Morse, M. D. Sullivan, A. W. Russell, T. A. Davenport, E. F. Bailey, C. N. Hildebrand, Harm Steenblock, R. T. Coe, Ed Kennedy, George Hake, Charles H. Hass, A. W. Loats, and Henry Hokel.

The Recorders and Clerks of Belmond have been E. S. Hubbard, U. B. Tracy, J. W. Seeber, Frank Dunlap, G. N. Thompson, M. H. Littell, W. H. Pierce, E. H. Hubbard, J. C. Brown, J. B. Steeber, Ed H. Sands, E. A. Pierce, G. J. Byers and Carrie Courtney.

EARLY SETTLERS

1853-1854—Henry Luick, Jerome Gray, Anthony Overacker, David Luick, Mr. Wilse.

1855-1856—Archie Dumond, Dr. Cutler, Thomas Oliver, Stephen and Isaac Whited, W. E. Rogers, Warren Rankin, Charles Sheets, Washington Dumond, Amos Cummings, Joseph Dukes, Harvey Mack, Robert Duffy, Andrew Dumond, Aaron Dukes, Thomas Sheets, F. O. Brooks, Albert Cummings, Lewis Whited, J. M. Elder, W. B. Walter, William Whited, William Luick, J. B. Jenison.

1857 — Fred Luick, Ed Lathrop, Luther Loomis, G. A. Thompson and Simeon Overacker.

1858 — A. Elder, Beriah Wright and E. A. Howland.



LOG CABIN OF W. C. "CAP" TYRRELL

The Earliest Settlers

By A. Lee Luick

I have been asked to write something about the Luick family who were the first to settle at Belmond, and my early recollections of people and events I thought might be of interest. I did have the great privilege of spending more than fifty years of my life as a citizen of Belmond. I was brought up in the environment of great love for the community and the people who have made it such a wonderful place to live. As a boy in school playing baseball and later as a banker for more than thirty years, my one great ambition was to win for Belmond.

The Luick family is of German descent, Jacob

and Katherine Luick migrated from Stuttgart, Germany in 1832 to settle near Ann Arbor, Michigan in a log cabin. It was wild Northwestern Territory then. At the time of their coming, they had three children, Henry, John, and my father, David. Three additional children were born in the log cabin — William, Katherine and Frederick.

Henry Luick, the eldest, became a surveyor, and about 1846 joined a surveying gang, making the government survey of northern Iowa. On this survey they were camped near a log cabin of a trapper — a Mr. Beebe — near the junction of Franklin Creek and the Iowa River, near Franklin Grove. As the legend goes, Henry made a deal with this trapper for the log cabin and all the land he could see from a big old walnut tree near by. After finishing the survey, he returned to his family in Michigan.

It was 1853 before he could arrange to take his family to the log cabin in Iowa. His family at the time consisted of five children — Michael, Sylvester, Lewis, Mary and Barbara. Frank and Charles were born after coming to Iowa.

Henry induced my father, David Luick, then 21 year old, to join his covered wagon caravan for the 700 miles to the log cabin, by way of Chicago, then a thriving young city. There were no railroads west of Chicago, so they traveled west to Galena, a lead mining town on the east bank of the Mississippi and then found a ferry to take them across the river to Dubuque, Iowa, from which point they struck west some 200 miles to that log cabin.

This was Indian country with roving bands of marauding Indians that they had to look out for, they only knew the general direction — no roads or bridges — and they had to float their wagons across the streams. The black Iowa soil made the going very tough. There were, however, a few scattered settlers to give them direction, but it is hard today for one to realize or visualize what a rugged trip it was, when one travels their route with the fine paved highways, wonderful farms and beautiful towns along the way, but in three months of travel they did arrive at the log cabin to set up their homes as the first settlers of what is now Belmond. Wright County had not yet been organized, but later Henry Luick served as one of the first County Judges.

My father, David Luick, picked out the land he wanted, which is where much of Belmond now stands. Soon after their arrival he struck off to file claim at the land office in Fort Des Moines, some 100 miles away, knowing only the general direction. He told me what a rugged trip it was. His horse would become mired in the black Iowa soil and he



HOW MAIN STREET APPEARED BY 1905

would have to stop for rest and to dry his clothes as he had to swim a number of streams on the way. He was badly chafed and blistered from his money belt which contained the four hundred dollars in gold to pay the filing fee for the 320 acres of land. (I have a tax receipt dated Fort Des Moines for taxes for 1854.) Upon his return, he broke up some of the virgin soil with a moldboard plow, just invented, that he had purchased on his way from Michigan.

Trapping was the only vocation with which one could make a living in the first few years. There was an abundance of beaver, otter, mink, muskrats, etc. The furs could be sold for cash or traded at trading posts for staples such as sugar, salt, coffee, tea, etc. My father, David, was a successful trapper, and his trade took him all over northwestern Iowa to the Big Sioux River on the Dakota line. His first real experience with Indians was in the spring of 1854, when he was running a bunch of traps near Little Wall Lake and had built a shelter or dugout in the high bank of the lake as a place to get out of the weather and to keep his extra supplies and to skin, prepare and store his pelts. One day in early spring, he was busily skinning his catch, when all of a sudden about fifty Sioux Indians pounced down upon him. They were all dressed in their war costumes, highly painted in Indian fashion, with feathers. He said he thought his day had come, and if there was ever a scared Dutchman, he was, as he was miles away from any white man. They stripped him of everything — that is, gun, powder horn, knives and a good part of his clothing and all the tobacco he had, which they seemed to prize very

much. They hooted and hollered at his fright and pretended they were going to take his scalp. After having all the fun they wanted, they gave him back everything except his tobacco and went on their way, as it seems they were on the warpath against the Tama Indians and had a battle with them 30 or 40 miles away from this point.

My grandfather and grandmother, Simeon and Catherine Overacker, migrated to Belmont in early 1857 and with their large family they brought Katherine and Frederick Luick, so all the Jacob Luick family, except John who remained in Michigan, were now in this new land — William had come the year before. My mother, Sarah Overacker was 14 years old when they came and two years later married my father, David Luick. In 1859 they set up housekeeping in the house that he had built two years earlier on the site where the Ray Klemme house now stands. Their children were Amelia, Ida, Emma, Mabel and A. Lee. David Luick was instrumental in forming the first Independent School District of Belmont, acted as the first President of the Board of Directors, and remained on the board for many years.

William Luick, who married Rose Pierce, the daughter of an early Belmont merchant, settled on a farm just east of the town. Their children were Smith, Ern, Alma and Cora.

Katherine, the only sister, married Adrian Elder and settled on a farm just south of Belmont. Their children were Charles, Katherine and George.

Frederick Luick, the youngest of the family, married Alice Packard, a daughter of one of the early pioneers, and settled on a farm just southeast of Belmond. Their children were Edith, Chester and Hal.

This original Luick family, who were the first to settle at Belmond, were all of great integrity, frugal, and built a solid foundation of home life in the development of this community, and I am sure their example was an inspiration in the early life at Belmond.

In closing, I wish to offer this toast — "To Belmond, who we all love so much, and its first Centennial — may she have many more and continue to be the wonderful town and community she has been these first hundred years."

Early Personalities

James M. Elder and Adrian Elder, early settlers, who came to Belmond in 1856 and 1858, were among the widely known families in Wright County in the early days. J. M. Elder helped develop Belmond's business, and Adrian Elder was county supervisor for several terms.

Warren Rankins emigrated to Belmond in 1855 and played an important part in the early business of the community. He also owned one of the first threshing machines in the county and at one time was a partner in a general store.

Hon. John L. Morse was born in New York and came first to Michigan, where he was a member of the state legislature and Judge of Probate Court. In the spring of 1866 he moved to a farm near Belmond. In 1868 he was elected Wright County Judge, which was changed to county Auditor, a position he held for six years. He was the first mayor of Belmond. He also served in the Sixteenth General Assembly of Iowa and practiced in the circuit and district courts of the county for sixteen years. Morse lake was named for him.

John Dozier Sands — or Father Sands as he was more generally known — was born in Norfolk, England in 1815. In 1844 he entered Yale, graduating in 1847. He preached in Vermont and Iowa until the Civil War, when he went to serve as chaplain. He came to Belmond in 1869 and in 1871 was elected county superintendent of schools, preaching and lecturing in all the schools he visited. His work took him on a circuit in Hancock and Wright counties and

he organized churches in Clarion and Eagle Grove, as well as in other communities. When the first church building was erected in 1883, he was installed as pastor of the Congregational church and gave up itinerant work. He served here for 34 years and the Sands Memorial church — destroyed by fire in 1935 — was built as a monument to his memory.

After the civil war, S. N. Hinman and his brother-in-law, Frank Christie, both veterans of the Civil War, came to Belmond, and purchased land near Hickory Grove, northwest of Belmond. They broke up prairie, built barns and fences and made the place, as it were, an oasis in the desert.

Capt. W. C. Tyrrell came to Wright county in 1868 in a covered wagon drawn by a team of mules, settling then in Iowa township on a farm. His farm was improved and added to, until today it totals nearly 2,000 acres. In 1919, Mr. Tyrrell gave to the town of Belmond, where he resided for 32 years, a beautiful park of 10 acres of native forest. In 1879 he was elected county treasurer, serving six years.

S. D. Pierce was one of the most influential and public spirited men of early days in Belmond. He came to Belmond in 1864 and started one of the first stores. He was the second mayor, justice of the peace and also county supervisor.

Henry Crist came to Iowa in 1877, where he farmed west of Belmond, in Norway township. He later moved into town. He was known to Belmond people as a man of unusual generosity. His private charities were many. His gift of the public library is a living memorial to this public spirited man who loved his home town.

In 1881 H. J. Klemme moved to Belmond from his farm in Hancock county which today is the site of the town of Klemme, which bears his name. From the time of his arrival he was engaged in business in Belmond, including lumber, coal, furniture and concrete products. He served on the public school board, the town council and as Mayor. He financed and later owned the first telephone exchange in Belmond.

William Whited was the first man from Belmond to die in the Civil War and the G. A. R. post was named for him.

Other early settlers including the Dumonds and Dr. Cutler, and their contributions to early Belmond, are discussed in more detail in other articles in this booklet.

SCANDINAVIAN SETTLEMENT

In the spring of 1869 settlers in Hickory Grove saw a train of perhaps a dozen yoke of oxen ambling along with their covered wagons. Rumor had it that a group of Norwegians had camped on the prairie northwest of Belmond. This group had come from LaCrosse, Wisconsin and were no doubt the first Norwegians to settle in Wright county. This party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hanson, Sr. and their three boys, Ole, Hans and John, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Simerson, with one child, and C. M. Johnson. A year later, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thompson, with one boy, Ole, came. After that, they came in rapid succession — Nels Sougstad, the Skovlin brothers, Henry Nelson, John Larson, James Johnson, Hans Jacobson, the Furuseths, all in the early 1870's.

A great deal of hardship had to be endured in those days as well as earlier, with mud and sloughs everywhere. There were few books, no paper, even church service depended upon an itinerant preacher. There was no way of making distant visits in a short time. Oxen and overworked horses had to rest as much as possible.

The earlier Norwegian settlers persevered through the hardships and later were joined by other Norwegians, and soon established a church and have continued to prosper through the years.

Early Agriculture

The pioneer farmer tilled his land and harvested his crop in strange and peculiar ways, according to modern methods. In 1854 the Luick family, the Grays and Overackers planted their first crops in the new country. In the spring they broke the virgin prairie soil with a walking plow. At planting time, holes were chopped in the sod with an ax, and the seed dropped in by hand. Hence the "sod corn" of the early days. Cultivation was with a hoe, and with a one-row single shovel walking corn plow. The farmer could not ride, for there was nothing to ride on. The old single shovel cultivator was made by the blacksmith in a rude fashion, and the timber used in its construction was hewed by hand from native timber from Franklin Grove.

The Luicks' planted five acres of corn in 1854 from which they secured a "good yield" of from 20 to 25 bushels to the acre. The first year nothing but corn was planted. The second year, in 1855 some wheat was sown. Oats were not planted until several

GERMAN SETTLERS

The first settlers of German parentage were Ulfertus Bruns and John Brouwer, both land agents who were instrumental in bringing in other German families. Heije Mennenga, his wife and three children came here in 1876 in a wagon from near Ackley. John Henn came about the same time as the Mennenga family and located on a farm. Lambert Pals, John Pals and Andrew Pals arrived here the next year, and Mr. and Mrs. M. Frohling, parents of Mrs. Mennenga came from Illinois in 1878.

Nearly all of these German people settled in Pleasant township and in later years the adjoining towns of Alexander and Meservey grew up with mostly German citizens.

In 1883 a large number of German families came over in the same ship, made their way to Belmond, and formed a German settlement east of town. They were the families of Hans Pals, Ben Gruis, W. Wilkinson, Mrs. Lauen, Henry Pals, and three girls who afterward became Mrs. Dick Pals, Mrs. Harm Meinders and Mrs. Albert Van Buren.

The German farmers brought the true spirit of the pioneers with them, a knowledge of hard work and the desire for the possession of property and a home.

They have been a God-fearing, industrious people and their efforts have been blessed with success.

years later. No rye or barley was grown until quite a few years later.

Harvesting was by hand, no matter what the crop. Corn was husked. Wheat was cut with a scythe, the old fashioned "cradle," and then raked and bound by hand. The rake was similar to the garden rake of today, but with wooden teeth. The grain was raked to a pile, then the rake held on the shoulder while the grain was gathered into a bundle and tied by hand. A good yield was 30 bushels of wheat to the acre.

Threshing of the grain was accomplished by the "flail," a short wooden handle with a piece of whang leather fastened to the end. The grain was spread out and beaten with this flail until the grain was separated from the straw.

There was no such thing as a local market for any products then. Corn and wheat were hauled to

Dubuque, on the Mississippi river, the nearest market then.

Later it was hauled to Iowa City, and still later to Cedar Falls. Some of it was sold to the mill at Dubuque, some ground into corn meal for johnny cake and in flour for bread, for the pioneer's own use. The flour was mostly of the graham character, due to the fact that the mills were not equipped to bolt the wheat.

There was no such thing as a granary. Consequently grain was piled on the ground or dumped into rail fence cribs, until it could be disposed of.

Early livestock was extremely limited. The Luicks had four horses, the Grays a number of cattle. Anthony Overacker had one milk cow, the only milk cow in the entire outfit of pioneers.

Farm buildings were make-shift and built of logs. The barns were covered with straw. There was no lumber of any character to be had. Everything used had to be hewn by hand from the native timber. Doors were made by hewing a log to the required thickness and length. Windows were out of the question and the first log cabins had none. Later small panes of glass were secured. The open fireplace furnished heat and a means for cooking. Floors were cut from logs, hewn down to a degree of smoothness and laid on the ground or on other logs.

The mill was the first local market for grain. As his fee for grinding, the miller took a certain toll of the grain. There was very little actual money —

there was no place to get it and no place to spend it if they had it. Practically everything was bartered—a load of grain was worth so much in trade for a cow or a horse, or two calves, perhaps, would be worth one cow.

Cash was received practically only through the trapping activities of the settlers. In those days, game and wild life was abundant. The grove was the home of many beaver, otter, muskrats, mink and wolves. Elk were plentiful on the prairies, and deer were more or less common. Wild fowl were here in countless thousands.

No facilities were available then for preserving meats, consequently the diet of the pioneer was limited in fresh meats to those times when he was able to shoot an elk or deer, or to get a wild duck or prairie chicken.

Winters in the fifties were severe beyond the comprehension of the citizen of today. In 1856 and 1857 four feet of snow lay on the level. Drifts were common to the top of the cabins. In 1857 a snow drift extended from the top of the hill across the river to the ground where the M. and St. L. depot now stands. This drift, level from the hill top was 35 to 40 feet deep, and when the river broke up in the spring, the water melted the snow and left an arch of snow over the river. There were times of blinding blizzards which had a free sweep over the open prairie, when the pioneer would fasten himself to a rope, tied to the cabin, so that he could find his way back to the house when he went out to do the chores.

Early Transportation

When the earliest settlers came to Belmond there were no railroads in the whole state of Iowa. All mail and goods stopped on the other side of the Mississippi, opposite Davenport.

When, in 1856, the Chicago and Rock Island crossed the "Father of Waters," the scattered pioneers of the prairies hailed the fact with joy. Construction moved fast, and in the same year the "iron horse" reached Iowa City, then the capital of Iowa. Stage lines were soon established from Iowa City to Eldora, and the mail brought that far, though perhaps it had to lie there weeks before some one passing through Wright county would carry it to the settlers.

Groceries and other supplies were first hauled from Dubuque with oxen, and the trip made in two weeks. Necessary articles were generally secured in the fall, sufficient to last until spring. There were no bridges over streams, and sometimes miles must

be traveled to go around a slough.

When the railroad came as near as Cedar Falls, it was considered very fortunate indeed, and this point remained the nearest market for many years.

In 1869 Luther A. Loomis took the contract of carrying mail and stage passengers between Belmond and Alden, Belmond and Garner, and Belmond and Webster City to Fort Dodge. During the sixteen years of this stage line's existence he had the record of never having missed a trip, successfully driving through mud and snow and over dangerous roads. Fighting prairie fires and facing winter blizzards were not uncommon to Mr. Loomis and other stage drivers including: Solon Jones, Kirk Malvin, W. M. Wertz, Fred Fulton, Sr. and M. Lord.

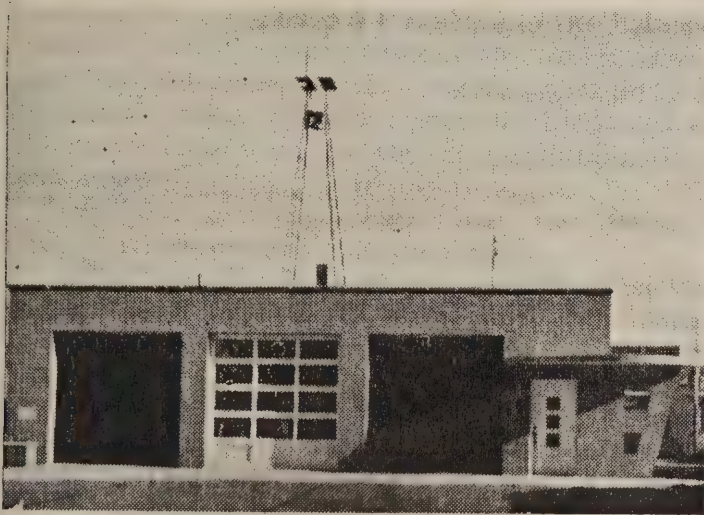
In 1871 an unsuccessful attempt was made to build a railroad to Belmond, and for another decade the pioneer had to carry on with the railroad only a

dim hope of the future.

In 1881 the first railroad, a branch of the Iowa Central, was built from Hampton to Belmond with aid furnished by the people, through subscription and taxation. The completion of this railroad track was quite an exciting experience for the settlers. A deadline of November 1, 1881 had been set. The track was finished as far as the hill a mile east of town, when the time had nearly expired, with a big slough yet to be crossed. In order to get the road into town by Nov. 1, the farmers aided by hauling straw and hay into the slough, and plowed up sod to lay on top upon which to lay the ties. Although this was rather a spongy roadbed, the iron horse with flying colors steamed into Belmond about ten o'clock on the appointed day amid the cheers and rejoicing of a large crowd of people, some of whom had waited over twenty years for the sound of that lone engine's shrill whistle. The Iowan Central later became the M. and St. L. and the B. C. R. and N. which was built in 1884 later became the Rock Island. The M. C. and Ft. D. which was built in 1886 later became the Great Western, thus providing Belmond with three Railroads.

FIRE COMPANY

The Belmond Fire Department, a volunteer company of 32 members, has progressed from bucket brigade to a hose cart pulled by hand and a hook and ladder truck pulled by the first dray team to reach the station, to the present three truck department housed in a new brick fire station. One truck is owned by farmers on a share basis, but manned



BELMOND'S NEW FIRE STATION

by firemen. Early records are not available as to organization date of the company.

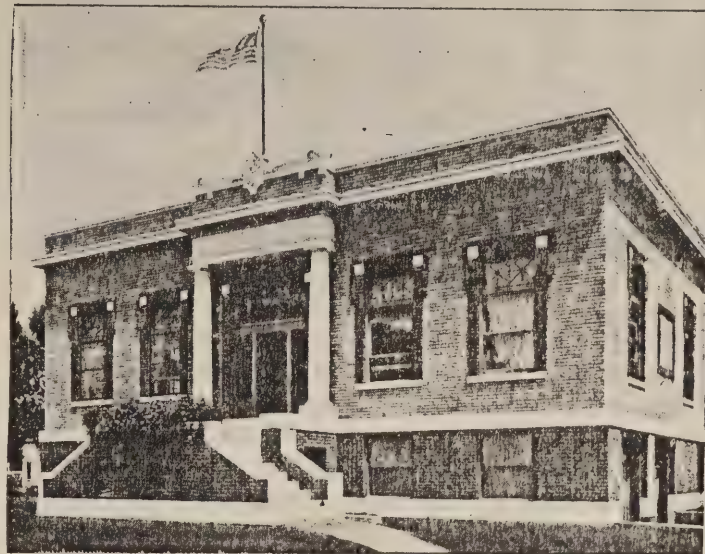
M. A. Holtzbauer is the only member to receive a fifty year plaque, his membership dating from 1902. A. W. "Doc" Johnson is the present "chief".

CEMETERIES

The time came when the early settlers found it necessary to select a place for the burial of the dead. The location chosen was the high ground, overlooking the river, north of the brick house. The first one to be placed there was Mrs. Aaron Dukes, who died in the fall of 1856, and whose baby was soon laid by her side. During the following winter an Englishman, living at Twin Lakes, was frozen to death and was also buried in this ground. About this time the Belmond Cemetery, near Franklin Grove, was set apart, and soon afterward Mr. Gray, one of the earliest settlers died and was the first person buried there.

CITY HALL

The city hall was built in 1915 at a cost of \$8,000. It is of brick construction. The basement of the building contains the jail and quarters for city equipment. The first floor is occupied by the offices of the mayor and city clerk and the council room.



CITY HALL

POST OFFICE

A post office was established in 1856, with Archie Dumond the first postmaster. Mail came first to the Mississippi river, by railroad, then was brought here by anyone making a trip to Davenport. Later mail was brought by stage and on horseback. The second postmaster was J. M. Elder, followed by Wm. Rogers, Geo. McKay, L. R. Cutler, Geo. Dumond, J. C. Cowles, Wm. Mitchell, John Adams, Lyna Whit-ed, the only woman postmistress, R. C. Cameron, E. S. Hubbard, W. C. Ramsay, J. McAlpine, R. C. Morse, W. R. Ramsay, C. N. Hildebrand, Joe Duea, J. C. Brady and the present postmaster George Jenison. The post office was built in 1923.

CITY PARK

The City Park includes one block of ground and was bought from S. D. Pierce in 1886. In later years improvements have been made, including seats,



PARK IS SHADED BY MANY LOVELY TREES

donated by the Community Welfare Club, a large cement platform used as a stage and walks donated by Henry Crist. A tennis court has also been added in recent years and the Federated Clubs of Belmond are also adding improvements to the park at the present time.

NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper established at Belmond was the Belmond Mirror, which was started by G. G. Pritchard, with Dell Allen, editor, and printed on the famous Lovejoy press, in 1873. The Mirror changed hands a number of times and was finally sold to Frank Gates, who made a number of improvements and changed the name to the Belmond Herald. Gates took the trouble to look up the history and trace the owners of the Lovejoy press. He finally sold the press to Libby Prison for \$100 as an anti-slavery relic. It can be seen in the Chicago Museum today.

Another newspaper here was the Belmond Times, which merged with the Herald.

The Iowa Valley Press was established in 1895 with George Wellemeyer, editor, and J. D. Baker, owner. In 1914 it was consolidated with the Belmond Herald.

The Belmond Independent was founded by R. A. Rankins in November, 1919. In March, 1940, the Belmond Independent and the Belmond Advertiser were consolidated, and the Belmond Independent is the only newspaper today.

BANKS

There seems to have been no need for banks in the early 1850's and 60's, so the first attempt at banking in Belmond was in 1871 when Dr. L. H. Cutler established a private banking house in a

small frame building on the east bank of the Iowa River. He sold to McMurray and Eastman in 1873. They kept the business two years and sold to L. B. Clark and Eskridge.

In 1881 the Iowa Valley Bank was organized by G. H. Richardson as president, with D. E. Packard as cashier. This was a private bank until 1892 when



FIRST IOWA VALLEY BANK BUILDING

it was made the Iowa Valley State Bank. The Bank was changed to the First National in 1907. The business was first conducted in a small frame building and in 1893 a modern brick bank building was erected at a cost of \$11,600.

In 1891 the State Bank was organized to take over the business of the Bank of Belmond. L. B. Clark was president. The State Bank Building was built in 1921. The First National Bank was consolidated with the State Bank in 1921.

The Belmond Savings Bank was organized in 1899 with Val Griesy, president, and D. E. Packard, Cashier. The idea of a Savings Bank originated with D. E. Packard and the bank in reality was established by him on December 12, 1899.

Both the Belmond Savings Bank and the State Bank of Belmond closed July 21, 1931. After that Belmond was without a bank for about two years except for a few months when the Franklin County State Bank of Hampton operated a branch bank here.

The First State Bank was organized in 1933, with C. N. Hildebrand, President, J. J. McGuire, Vice President, B. C. Hewlett, Cashier, and R. A. Henderson, C. N. Hildebrand, George Heginger, Cyril McGuire and F. K. Smith, Directors.

Schools of Belmont



THIS EARLY BELMOND SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1874

In the early days, the existing environment did not keep the families from providing an education for the children.

For the children in west Belmont and on the hill, school houses were built on the hill, the first being erected in 1857. However, there is no record telling what happened to it. In 1858 a brick school house was erected across the ravine, northwest of the present old brick house on the hill. This burned in 1863.

We learn of a subscription school which was held for several terms in a granary on the hill west of the river. Jane Oliver was the first teacher there.

Children living in south Belmont and in Franklin Grove attended schools in that vicinity. The first school taught near Franklin Grove was held in a log building that had been used as a dwelling. Isadore Fisk Rogers taught this school in 1856 at the age of fifteen.

Another school house, "a little red school house" was soon built southeast of town near the present cemetery site. Those who attended were the Rankins, Polmateers, Culpes, Luicks, Robinsons, Veeders, Whiteds and Johnsons (J. N.)

This little red school house was one room with benches along the side walls, the pupils facing the center of the room. Each two children had a board desk in front of them. No maps or charts adorned that school. The only other equipment was a table and chair for the teacher, a wood burning stove and a board painted black for written class work. This building burned and only a few books were saved by a pupil, Alice Corp, and her mother.

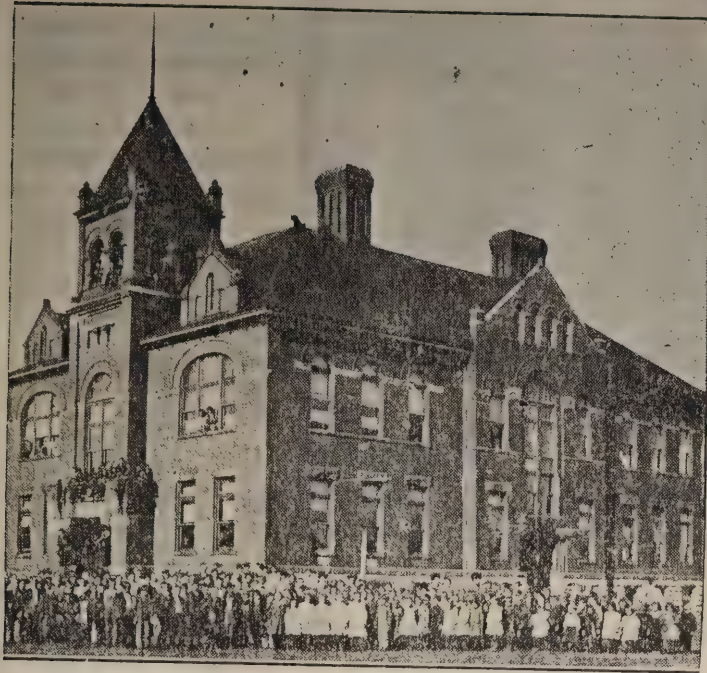
Another school was built for the children of the neighborhood in the south part of Franklin Grove. It was later moved to the north part of the woods and for many years was known as the Murphy School house. To date the building, although unused for the past few years, still stands, but after reorganization in 1954 it was bought by Dr. G. J. Hruska and moved to his property adjoining the west side of the school yard. The school site reverted to the George Hake farm, formerly the Murphy farm.

At one time the school in town was taught by a Mr. Lutz. One day he brought a rocking chair to sit in at his desk. Perhaps some of the pupils thought he was lazy. At any rate four of the older girls brought a pillow when he was gone to dinner and

put it in his rocking chair. Evidently Mr. Lutz knew the responsible parties, as he invited the four, one by one, to sit in his chair.

In the early 60's another frame building was built on the hill and this same school was taught by Rev. J. D. Sands in the 70's.

After the little red school house burned, a Mrs.



FIRST BRICK SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1895

Billy Thompson took the children living north of the woods and in Belmond proper, into her home to

teach. Soon a school house was erected just north of the J. N. Johnson home, now the J. R. Gallagher residence. This building was repaired several times and served as Belmond's school until the Independent School District was organized. It was then moved to Main Street and used as a business building.

In the early days of education in Belmond, teachers were required to teach Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography and English Grammar. Sometimes the last two were omitted as the teacher was not prepared to teach them.

The first teachers certificate issued by W. M. Montgomery, County School Fund Commissioner, was to a Mrs. Skinner, who taught in a private house and received eighteen dollars per month.

Not many terms were taught in Belmond until it was thought best to have a school district organized and have teachers inspected according to law, so as to draw public money. A meeting was called and Isaac Whited was elected to represent the school in all capacities.

He was advised to make the best showing possible to the School Fund Commissioner to gain recognition, and the needed funds from the commission. The mission was accomplished and the district was established. The first County School Fund Commissioner was W. H. Montgomery. After three years, Josiah Davidson was made County Superintendent of Schools, that office taking the place of School Fund Commissioner and part of the duties.

Some of the early teachers were Jane Oliver,

PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL
AND JUNIOR HIGH
BUILDING (RIGHT)
WAS BUILT IN 1916;
GYMNASIUM (LEFT)
WAS ADDED IN 1941



**RAMSAY SCHOOL
HONORS MEMORIES
OF W. C. AND
W. R. RAMSAY,
TWIN BROTHERS
WHO WERE BELMONT
CIVIC LEADERS**



Isadore Fisk Rogers, Frank Fisk Thatcher, Robert Treat, Cornelia Eastman, Mr. Lee, James Elder, Levi Whited, Ann Wagner, Mr. Lutz, Mrs. Skinner and Mrs. Billy Thompson.

A two story frame school house was built in 1874 upon the site of the present upper grades school house. Two teachers were hired.

The Independent School District was organized May 18, 1878 with David Luick as president of the board of directors.

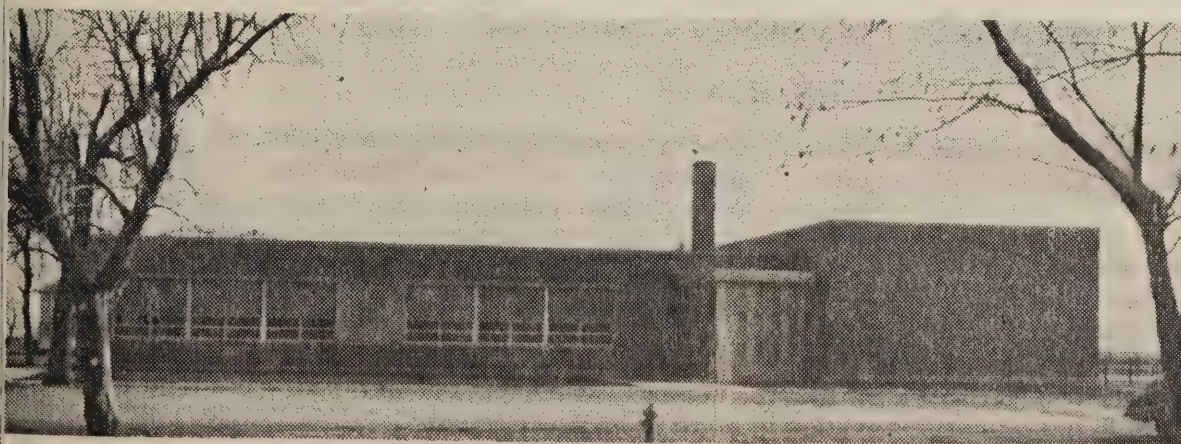
Under Professor J. G. Grundy, in the fall of 1884 a higher form of education was established. Five students were selected to complete a three year course in two years and to graduate at that junction — this was to stimulate and enthuse pupils. The five students selected were Grace Richardson, Ern-

est Cameron, Ed Pritchard, Blanche Pritchard and Cora Cutler. In the spring of 1886 these students comprised the first class to graduate from the first high school organized in Wright County.

In June 1887, Richard Pritchard and Anna Cantwell graduated with equal honors, proving the enthusiasm had not diminished and resistance had been overcome.

Beginning in 1891, a four year course was required in high school.

A brick building was erected about 1895-96 to replace the frame school house. In 1916-17 it was torn down and the present brick building was built at a cost of \$90,000.00, thus materializing the dreams of Prof. Paul J. Scarbro, here for eight years. Since then many changes have been made on the interior



**THIS FINE
BUILDING REPLACED
FRAME SCHOOL
AT GOODELL**



NEW VOCATIONAL SHOP BUILDING AND BUS BARN GO INTO USE IN 1956-57

of the building to accommodate the progress in education. It was during Prof. Scarbro's term in office that domestic science, manual training, boys and girls club work (4-H) were introduced. A school band and an orchestra were formed and the participation in athletic competition was stressed, without neglecting the fundamental school subjects.

A gymnasium was added in 1941-42 at the northwest corner of the school house connecting with the north doors. Included is a gym, band room, boys dressing room, girl's dressing room and Vocational Agriculture department. The former gym was converted to class rooms, office space and hot lunch room.

As the number of pupils increased it became necessary to build an elementary school. This was built in 1952 at a cost of \$185,000 and named Ramsey Elementary. The former school house now houses grades five through twelve.

Following the reorganization in July, 1954, the Belmond Independent School District became Belmond Community School, including the former Goodell district. A new \$94,000.00 brick elementary school house replaced the frame building at Goodell in 1956.

Increased enrollment of the present and future

was the deciding factor in obtaining a new school site at the east edge of Barry's addition. This site will include football field, baseball field, softball diamond, practice field, junior high school field, future high school and the now completed \$85,000.00 Shop and Bus barn.

It is interesting to note that in the seventy-eight years since the Independent School district was organized only fifteen different superintendents have served. These are: J. G. Grundy, W. H. Bowser, E. A. Pierce, Angus McDonald, Wyant, F. C. Popham, Samuel Neven, Paul Scarbro, Filer, Guthrie, H. J. Williams, Hazel V. Thomas, A. M. Sones, Theodore Johnson and Donald Faris.

We have made much progress in education from the little log school to the present four building system, and as for teachers — from a one teacher school to the present faculty of forty-four.

The same is true today as was written in 1895 in the women's edition of the Iowa Valley Press — "With a board of education always ready to stand for the best interests of the school, it has been possible to keep time with the great progressive spirit of the age. The board of education, the teachers, the pupils, and the people have worked with a singleness of purpose, and that to make the Belmond schools equal to the best in intellectual Iowa."

The Belmond Public Library

By R. H. Klemme

During the first years of its existence the people of Belmond were busily occupied in establishing a city and the commercial institutions which gave Belmond its foundation. Settled as it was with Christian God-fearing people, churches were the first expressions of developing religious and cultural life.

At the turn of the century the economic and religious foundations of the community having been

secured, serious attention was turned toward a deepening of the cultural life of the city and its inhabitants.

The late 1890's saw the expansion of libraries into smaller communities of the country. As a matter of fact the Women's Christian Temperance Union had a small library in the Davis home. Essentially this was a book exchange center rather than a library as we know them.



HENRY CRIST TURNS FIRST SPADEFUL OF EARTH AT LIBRARY GROUND-BREAKING

Shortly after 1910 a group of serious and public minded citizens of Belmond informally constituted themselves to examine the feasibility of obtaining for the community a library which would serve as the cultural center for the city. Out of many meetings of this group came the Library Board, officially constituted in 1915 and which has given shape and content to the institution which we have today.

In November, 1915, Mayor Walter C. Ramsay appointed the members of the Library Board of Trustees. They were Mrs. W. I. Rosecrans, Mrs. F. A. Stevens, Miss Mae Church, Miss Daisy Cameron, Dr. H. L. Gowdy, Attorney J. M. Berry and R. H. Klemme. The 22nd of that month the first official board meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Rosecrans with all members present. At this meeting Mayor Ramsay attended. The following officers were elected — Mrs. Rosecrans, President, Miss Cameron, Vice President, and J. M. Berry, Secretary.

In December of 1915 Mr. H. I. Crist purchased the site on which this building now stands and donated the property to the town of Belmond for a Library. Little did Mr. Crist know at that time just how far his generosity would be extended.

In January of 1916 the Library Board corresponded with the Carnegie Foundation for funds with which to build a Library building. After investigation on the part of the Carnegie Foundation they offered the Belmond Library a grant of \$7500, however, they stipulated in their offer that the building should be known as the "Carnegie Library" regardless of any supplemented funds used in the construction of the building. G. L. Lockhart of Minneapolis had been employed by the Board as Ar-

chitect. The plans submitted were those of the building we have today. The estimated cost was \$15,000.

In April of the same year, Mr. Crist learned of the Carnegie offer, with its stipulation. Mr. Christ was ill at the time and confined to his bed, and from his sick room he directed his banker, Mr. A. L. Luick, to meet with the Library Board and present his request that the Board drop all negotiations with the Carnegie Foundation. A contract was signed for the construction of the building as a private deal, Mr. Crist assuming the complete cost of the construction of our Library.

Mr. Crist's modesty would not permit the Library Board to use his name in connection with the building. He did, however, consent to the dedication of the Library to the Memory of his Mother, "Sarah Crist".

During the construction of the building the citizens of Belmond were interviewed for funds and several thousand dollars was raised. This money was used in buying furniture, equipment and books.

The Library was dedicated May 23rd, 1917. Timothy Harrington, an attorney and at that time a political figure in Northern Iowa, was the speaker of the day.

During the history of the Library there have been three Librarians. The first was Mrs. Anna Case who held the position from December 21, 1916, until April 26, 1925. On the 26th of April, 1925 Mrs. J. E. Wallace became Librarian and continued her faithful service until July 1, 1952. Our present Librarian, Mrs. H. E. Colby has presided at the Librarians desk since July, 1952.

Worthy of mentioning is the fact that immedi-



CITY LIBRARY, GIFT OF H. I. CRIST

ately following the opening of the Library the assembly room downstairs played an important part in the social and religious life in this community and has continued to do so up to the present time. It has been used by churches, the Red Cross, Scouts, clubs and various other types of meetings.

While the Library has served the many cultural and civic needs of the community, the history of the

Library has not been without its lighter and amusing incidents. During the Librarianship of Mrs. Case the Library had a regular patron whose taste seemed to run to books having bright colored covers. The books were always returned on the due date, never before. After this continued for some months, Mrs. Case one day inquired of the patron her reaction to a particular book being returned. The patron smiled sweetly and replied, "Oh, I don't read the books, but they do look so nice on the 'center table'."

Thus in its quiet and unspectacular way the Belmont Public Library has served the social and educational needs of Belmont for two generations. Given the support of the community with the unselfish devotion of its board members, the Library can look forward to serving the needs of the generations to come. In these troubled times when conflicting ideologies are competing for the minds and souls of people the Library is a Citadel of Truth and Freedom. "Ye shall know the Truth and it shall make you Free."

The Medical History of Belmont

By Mrs. S. P. Leinbach

Much research has been done to try to develop an accurate and informative history of medicine in Belmont. We found these opening words in an account of the medical men of Wright County from a 1915 county history to be all too true: "It is to be regretted that no more detail has been left by these truly worthy men; but doctors are too busy to record their own lives." To make the task more difficult, some sources seemed to be contradictory in the presentation of dates or biographical facts — recollections weren't always quite the same from person to person. If some doctors are neglected in the following history, it is because little or nothing could be found or recalled about them. So let it be considered that any tribute paid any doctor should be accepted as a tribute to them all. They were hard-working men, devoted to the cause of caring for the health and welfare of the people of this town in a day when distances were great, modern instruments and techniques still unknown, and hospitals practically nonexistent. What they were able to do with so little is all the more praiseworthy because it was so. There has been a long succession of these medical men and they are just as much a part of the pattern of Belmont's growth as its business people, homeowners, and farmers in the outlying areas. The evolution of the doctor from his horse and buggy days, his rendezvous with disease and death in homes as well as in his office, down to the day of the modern doctor with new and effective drugs, beautiful modern

equipment, well trained assistants and staffs has been a slow but steady one. We, in this community, should feel grateful for the contributions our doctors have made to the history of our town.

Dr. L. R. Cutler was the first and only doctor in Belmont for many years, coming here in 1856. He built the first frame house in town, opened a store in his home in 1858, and was instrumental in the building of the first saw mill in the town. An interesting pioneer note is that he rode his horse from the settlement in Belmont to those on the Boone river when there wasn't a tree or house to be seen between the two rivers. His son drove him through fierce blizzards while he tried to keep warm, wrapped in heavy blankets and with hay and straw around his body. So our first pioneer doctor was a man of many interests, a business man as well as a professional man.

Dr. J. C. Morris, whose grandsons now farm south of town, moved here in 1864, and practiced in a place south of Belmont called Ontario, a "paper" town. He later had an office where the present Ralph Jenison residence now stands on east Main Street.

Dr. S. Adams, Pennsylvania born, moved to Belmont in 1879. The Wright County History says of him: "He built up a large practice from among the best people of that vicinity." (Belmont). As early as



STEELE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

1889, he owned a fine farm of 240 acres in Belmond Township.

Dr. G. B. Galer was in Belmond before 1886. Another Pennsylvanian, he was registered here in 1887. He farmed and engaged in lumbering for several years before he received an injury in a saw mill accident that changed the course of his life. At 32, he began the study of medicine. He is described as "affable and courteous" and won fame as a "sure shot on diphtheria". He was found riding almost day and night to call on his patients, "sufficient to exhaust the ordinary man". Dr. Galer built the square house south of the park. He was still practicing in Belmond as late as 1899.

Dr. J. E. Wallace was born in Ohio and was registered here in 1890. Dr. Wallace associated for a time with Dr. Van Dyke, but later practiced alone and continued his work for many years. He was a city physician of Belmond for many years and lived to be over ninety.

Dr. Franklin A. Stevens was registered here in 1891. After retiring from active practice, he gave anesthetics for several years at the Belmond hospital.

Dr. George Givens, Canadian born, came here in 1893. He was known to be practicing here in about 1897 but was said to have moved later to Hampton.

One source listing three hundred men in business here in 1885, listed the following men as doctors here at that time: Dr. C. S. Knox, Z. C. Green,

and W. T. Gammon. Dr. Knox was here for a short time, going from here to Superior, Wisconsin where he practiced for the remainder of his life. Other doctors were here briefly about that time: Dr. S. W. Connell was registered here in 1895. Dr. Horton died here, while practicing medicine, somewhere in the late '90's, or early 1900's. Doctors Hoxie and Meyer were associated in the practice of medicine at one time. Dr. Hoxie built the house more familiarly known as the "Chapman" house, adjacent to the Gowdy residence. Dr. Meyer went from here to Hampton where he joined the staff of the Iowa Lutheran Hospital. A Dr. Woodley and P. C. Jones are mentioned as having been here but the actual dates weren't supplied. There were four or five doctors here about this time and one of them recalls that he opened his office and waited with growing concern for two months before he received his first patient. He seriously wondered if he had made a mistake in choosing Belmond as the site for his medical practice. This doctor went on to become most successful and received much recognition when he completed fifty years of practice here. This man was none other than Dr. G. F. McBurney.

Dr. McBurney came to Belmond in May, 1896. He is residing currently in Florida, in retirement after fifty years of active practice. He estimates he delivered about 3,000 babies, although the exact number is a little difficult to arrive at as in earlier days birth records were not required to be registered. At one time, in the flu epidemic of '17-'18, he went five



BELMOND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL SERVES A WIDE AREA AROUND BELMOND

days without rest caring for his patients who were so desperately ill. Asked what he thought was the greatest single development in medicine in the years of his practice, he answered the perfection of the diphtheria antitoxin — a dreaded killer up to that time.

Dr. G. F. Steele came to Belmond in 1915 and established his office and Belmond's first hospital on the second floor of the Martin building. He conducted a private medical and surgical practice until 1937. In that year, he formed a partnership with Dr. Samuel P. Leinbach. Dr. Steele was absent from Belmond for a period during World War I. He returned to his practice here in the spring of 1918. He died suddenly from a heart attack on November 17, 1944.

Dr. Samuel P. Leinbach came to Belmond in 1935. He practiced independently until 1937. At that time he went into partnership with Dr. G. H. Steele and together they built the clinic in 1938, occupying offices together in the Martin building until that time. Dr. Leinbach was in the Navy in World War II from 1942 to 1945. Following the war, he became more active in the work of the Iowa Medical Society. He is currently serving as chairman of the Iowa Medical Society's Rural Health Committee, Advisor to the Institute of Agricultural Medicine at Iowa University, and has been appointed to serve on the Iowa State Board of Health. He is currently practicing here, associated with Drs. G. J. Hruska and Arlo L. Pitcher in the Steele Memorial Clinic.

Dr. Robert Hansen took Dr. Leinbach's place while he was in the service. He practiced alone in the clinic following Dr. Steele's death in 1944 until Dr. Leinbach's return in November, 1945. He left Belmond at this time.

Dr. E. A. Watson came to Belmond in 1946. He was associated with the Clinic until 1949, at which time he returned to Nebraska.

Dr. G. J. Hruska came to Belmond in '46. The clinic became a three-way partnership when Dr.

Hruska joined the staff in 1947.

Dr. Arlo Pitcher came to Belmond in 1949. He was chief surgical resident of Garfield Memorial in Washington, D. C., for two years. He is currently practicing here, a member of the Steele Memorial Clinic and surgeon of the staff of the Belmond Community Hospital.

Dr. Marvin J. Colbert came here in 1955. Dr. Colbert was associated with the clinical staff as internist for the period of a year, after which he returned to Chicago, to teach at the University Medical School.

Belmond has had two osteopathic physicians in its medical history: Dr. Royal Nelson who practiced here from 1926 to 1929, when he moved to Humboldt, and Dr. A. M. Nelson who came to Belmond in 1931. Dr. A. M. Nelson is still practicing here.

Varying as they do in their contributions to the medical history of Belmond's first hundred years — from length of stay to type of service rendered, from a pioneer practice with its vast distances and crude facilities to today with its antibiotics, trained assistants and fine modern hospital, nicely accessible, each doctor takes his place, be it large or small, in the "mosaic" of our town's development, in what has become our Belmond of 1956.

HOSPITALS AND CLINICAL FACILITIES

The first hospital in Belmond was one established by Dr. G. H. Steele in 1915 on the second floor of the Martin Building. This served for more than twenty years continuously except for a time during World War I when Dr. Steele was in service.

A second hospital was established in the old "Richardson" house on the corner south of the library. The frame building was completely remodeled before it was used as a hospital by Dr. G. H. Steele and Dr. S. P. Leinbach, associated in the

practice of medicine at that time. It had a sixteen bed capacity and was opened in May, 1937, and served the area until the present Belmond Community Hospital was opened in June, 1952. It was called the Belmond Hospital until after Dr. Steele's death, when it was re-named Steele Memorial Hospital.

Belmond Community Hospital was built, except for a city bond issue of \$36,000, entirely from funds raised by a hospital drive for voluntary donations. It is a modern, fireproof, one story building with a capacity of twenty-six beds, located east of the Congregational Church. Its value at the time of its opening was placed at \$205,000, a figure exclusive of the value of its equipment. A 400 acre farm was given in trust to the hospital by Chester and Vida Luick, the income from which is to provide the hospital with needed equipment and expanded facilities from time to time. A chapel and general purpose addition has recently been added as a result of a \$10,000 gift presented to the hospital by a former resident, Mr. R. W. Rowen, of Oakland, California, as a memorial to his mother, Mrs. Sarah Rowen Purdy and his half-sister, Miss Rena Purdy, a teacher of

many years in the Belmond schools.

Belmond's first clinic was built by Dr. G. H. Steele and Dr. S. P. Leinbach adjoining the hospital building just south of the Library in 1937. It is a modern, fireproof brick building. After the death of Dr. Steele, the Clinic was named Steele Memorial Clinic. A new wing to the clinic building was added and ready for use in February, 1954, doubling the size of the original building. It now offers the most up-to-date clinical equipment and facilities, as well as the added comfort of air-conditioning. Its staff, in addition to the doctors, includes a full time laboratory and X-ray technician and assistant, two registered nurses, and a business manager and receptionist.

The combination of the clinic and community hospital is considered to be so unique in the many medical services made available to their patrons in this predominantly rural area that it has been featured recently in an illustrated article in a medical newspaper with national coverage and is to be featured soon in a well-known farming magazine.

The History of Industry



THE OLD MILL — AT TIME OF HIGH WATER

THE OLD MILL

The first mill erected in Belmond was in 1856, by Dr. Cutler and Archie Dumond, being the first improvment made. In 1863 G. A. Thompson came to Belmond from Iowa Falls and with Mr. J. F. Ful-

ton operated the Grist Mill here. It was here in 1870 that Mr. Fulton, grandfather of Fred Fulton, met his untimely death by being caught in the machinery of the mill and was crushed and mangled to death on a Sunday morning of April.



THE "LITTLE OLD MILL"

In 1925 the "Little Old Mill" was erected which stood for many years above the dam near where today the D-X station stands.

IOWA VALLEY SUGAR CO., INC.

The Iowa Valley Sugar Co., Inc., operated by the Iowa Valley Operating, Inc., was a local industry which had its origin in the minds of a few of our public spirited men who were looking to the greater development of the city, and a closer tying together of the interests of the city and the surrounding country. With the thought that this could best be done by some industrial development, dependent on or closely allied to the agricultural resources of the



THE BEET SUGAR FACTORY

territory, a beet sugar factory was decided upon.

After a few years of careful investigation and experimental work, a company was organized and a site purchased for a factory. This site was the former Elder farm, south of town, and consisting of 272 acres. Active construction work on the factory started in June, 1919, and in October, 1920, the plant was completed and went into active operation. This is the present day site of the General Mills Plant.

FARMERS ELEVATOR

During the early days there were two elevators located near the Iowa Central tracks. These were owned by G. H. Richardson and Col. T. B. Kaufman. When the Farmers Elevator Co. was established the west elevator was purchased, but this later burned and the east side elevator was purchased. In 1919 this frame building was torn down to give place to a modern hollow tile elevator, fireproof thruout. It is circular in shape, with a capacity of 40,000 bushels.

This company purchased the J. N. Johnson elevator at the Rock Island. They also bought the Palsville elevator.



IOWA VALLEY BOAT WORKS THRIVED FOR A TIME

BELMOND CEMENT MANUFACTURING CO.

In the spring of 1902 a small frame building housed the equipment for the manufacture of blocks. The first small drain tile was started in 1904. Later on the demand for large tile necessitated the further installation of machinery, etc., putting 26,900 feet of floor space under the roof. The largest product being made daily from 1905 to 1922 was county drainage tile in sizes ranging from 8 inch to 56 inch. The number of men employed during this time was from 22 to 30 men.

Because of the financial conditions among farmers shortly thereafter there was little demand for the tile and the factory closed.

FACTORIES OF THE PAST

An item from an old "Herald" mentions a Baking Powder Factory in Belmond, but the powder must have been lacking in leavening power as the factory never seems to have "risen" to any prominence in the community.

In the '90's a Sash and Door Factory was built near the M. & St. L. and the Rock Island. For a time it promised to be a success but was later abandoned and the building torn down.

HOTEL HISTORY

The first hotel was the Red Ranch built by O. O. Kent on the hill.

After the coming of the first railroad in '81, a hotel was built near the Iowa Central depot.

This building was purchased years later by E. M. Sheffield and moved to Main street to the corner east of the present hotel.

J. B. Kern, who ran a general store, built a fine frame hotel building at the corner of Main and River Ave. south in the early '80's. This was at that time the best hotel in the county.

In 1884, M. R. Case rented the Kern House which he ran for over a year, then sold to John Rule of Hampton. Rule ran the place a short time and then returned to Hampton.

Mr. Kern and wife took charge of the hotel on two different occasions when it was not rented. One of the popular landlords was Al Cleaves, who ran it for several years.

Hotel Case, the present hotel, was built in 1903 at a cost of \$20,000 by M. R. Case, father of Frank Case.

FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY

The Farmers Co-operative Creamery was organized July 1, 1906. The business was first carried on in



BELMOND CO-OP CREAMERY BUILDING, WHEN NEW

a frame building across the river, but in 1911 a modern brick building was erected on the east bank of the river on River Ave. North.

TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

The first telephone was put in by the Western Electric Co., of Mason City, through the efforts of H. J. Klemme. Their service included only a few town phones and toll calls. They did not install any rural

lines, but W. C. Tyrrell, Sr., put in his own line to his farm, running the wire from tree to tree.

E. M. Sheffield started a second line, putting in rural lines as well as town service. This immediately started a "price war" between the two companies. Sheffield advertised to place phones for \$1 per month. The Western Electric went down to fifty cents, and later offered to put in some phones free, but they soon tired of the game and sold out to Sheffield. He ran the line for a few years at a loss, though he endeavored hard to give satisfaction.

In 1909, J. P. Ott & Son of Hampton bought out the Sheffield line. After running the business for about a year, they found it was not a paying concern for a private company and so began to interest the farmers and business men in buying shares. As a result the Belmond Telephone Co. was organized and bought the line April 1, 1910. J. S. Pritchard was the first manager.



HARVESTING ICE FROM IOWA RIVER

ICE

The ice business on the Iowa river was started over 50 years ago by James Kenefick. Later it was managed for several years by Geo. Hardwick, who sold out to E. F. Bailey. He managed the business about twelve years, employing some 20 men during the ice harvest. About 2,000 tons per year were cut, about 700 tons being used in Belmond, and the remainder shipped to nearby towns.

BUSINESS FIRMS HERE IN 1885

G. W. Cram, Contractor & Builder
C. H. Clark, Contractor
J. Hubbard, Jeweler
E. S. Hubbard, Hardware
W. H. Kame, Jeweler
S. D. Pierce, Dry Goods



MAIN STREET LOOKING EAST IN 1882

W. L. Langstaff, General Merchandise
 Thomas Pigeon, Photographer
 Easler Restaurant
 L. Rummel, Wagons
 Clar & Slight, Furniture
 J. S. White, General Merchandise
 M. S. Paige, Machinery
 H. J. Klemme, Lumber & Coal
 N. Reese, Hardware
 Whited Sisters, Books
 J. E. Rowen, Insurance
 Jesse Underkofler, Blacksmith
 L. E. Metcalf, Mason
 W. E. Farman, Live Stock Dealer
 J. P. Byers, Harness
 Thomas Kelly, Lumber
 N. Malvin, Auctioneer
 G. Blake Galer, Physician
 Z. C. Green, Physician
 W. T. Gammon, Physician
 W. H. Mitchell, Drugs
 D. L. Cuppett, Hardware
 D. D. Harr, Drugs
 Dr. C. S. Knox, Physician

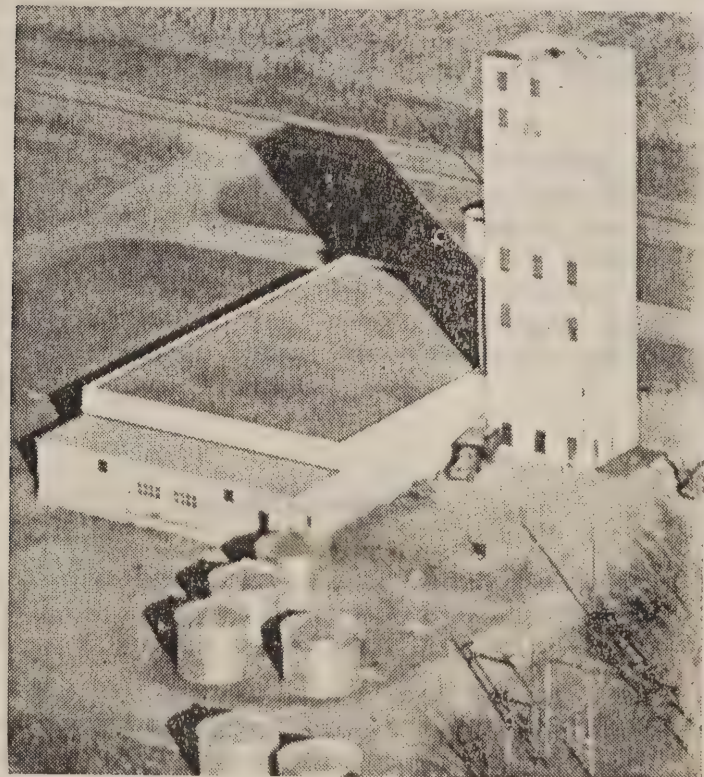
TOMAHAWK HYBRID CORN CO

The hundredth year of Belmont history coincides with the twenty-fifth production crop of Tomco Bred seed corn. Tomco Bred is the symbol of combined research of Tomahawk, Clarke and Carlson seed corn distributed through Tomahawk Hybrid Corn Co. at Belmont.

The late John Clarke of Conrad, Iowa, and R. B. "Rich" Thompson of Belmont cooperated in some of the early corn breeding work. Clarke grew commercial hybrid seed in 1932 and 1933, and Thompson

grew his first hybrid seed field, a two acre plot, in 1934. Rich obtained a few bushels of hybrid seed in 1932 for his father, George Thompson, and his uncle, Ed Thompson, and believes this is about as early as any hybrid corn was grown commercially in Wright County.

Thompson dried his first hybrid seed crop in 1934 in a hog house with a brooder stove for heat on his father's farm. In 1935, he leased the "Goetz" building, now the H. and H. Food Market, where he processed his seed and did ear testing for farmers



NORTH PLANT—THOMPSON HYBRID CORN CO.

that was necessary after the early freeze in the Fall of '35. In 1936, he processed his seed in the building now occupied by Ray's Body and Paint Shop after drying it in an improvised forced air drier on the Martin Hill farm north of Clarion.

In 1936, Thompson built a drier in the south part of town and leased the south half of the Klemme Mfg. Co. building. Eventually the whole building was converted into a seed corn plant. The North Plant on Highway 69 was built in 1946 and 1947 after the incorporation of the firm as Thompson Hybrid Corn Co., Inc.

The offices were moved several times as the operations out-grew their quarters including a temporary location where Belmont Radio and TV is now located. In 1952, Tomahawk Hybrid Corn Co. was formed to handle the sales of the Thompson Company and several other producing companies now growing a total of more than 7,000 acres of seed corn. These offices are located above the Woodward Store.

Asked about the highlights in the history of the firm, Thompson says that his fondest memories are of the personnel with whom he has worked. Oldest employee in years of service is W. H. "Bill" Trafford who served since the late thirties as Sales Manager and later as Treasurer and Credit Manager. Les Smith and Ed Ell, the latter now retired, served almost as long in sales work. C. E. "Chuck" Wilmarth came here in 1942 as Research Director. Another 'ten years plus' employee is Laverne Lein, Plant Superintendent, who started in 1945. Several plant employees also are ten year men. Thompson thinks it significant of the homeyness of the firm that the wives of all the employees named have at various times worked for the Company — including his wife, who started as a business partner in 1940 and since has served as Secretary of the Thompson corporation and payroll accountant of the Tomahawk firm.

The rapid expansion in late years has brought more top-flight employees to the firm than can be mentioned. Rich says that he hesitated to quote the past history of the firm, because its history is just starting to be made.

GENERAL MILLS

In October of 1943, General Mills, Incorporated took title to the Belmont properties of the American Crystal Sugar Company. An Allis Chalmers Soybean Extraction Plant with a capacity of 250 tons of beans per day was installed and in operation by December 1944. An elevator of 500,000 bushels capacity, later expanded to 1,500,000 bushels, was erected during this same period. In 1946, oil refining

equipment was added to the plant. In 1954, ground was broken for the erection of the Larro Feed Plant and in March 1955, the feed plant went into operation.

Among those prominent in the operation of the Belmont plant have been Whitney Eastman, first



GENERAL MILLS SOYBEAN PROCESSING PLANT

Division President; Sewall Andrews, present Division Manager; W. E. Flumerfelt, first Plant Manager; E. E. Woolley, first Plant Superintendent; George Kyser, Technical Director, who has been with the operation since its startup, as has H. E. Schmidt, the present M & E Supervisor; Ted Townsan, Meal Warehouse Supervisor, who was originally with the Sugar Company; Tom Burdsal, Feed Plant Superintendent.

At the present time the Belmont operation employs approximately 150 people. The Soybean Plant processes about 4,500,000 bushels of beans annually. Products include a complete line of refined, bleached and blown Soybean Oils, Soybean Oil Meal and Lecithin. The Feed Plant produces about 60,000 tons of Larro Farm Tested Feeds per year. A complete line of feeds is produced.

Sidelights

The first merchandise ever sold over a counter in Wright county was at Belmont from the stock put in by J. W. Cowles in July 1855.

The first wooden bridge over the river was carried away by spring floods and ice in 1867. The second wooden bridge met the same fate in 1870, and the third bridge was constructed of steel.

**BELMOND HIGH
SCHOOL GRADUATING
CLASS OF 1910**



H. J. KLEMMER HOME — AN EARLY SHOW PLACE



**A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM
OF THE 'NINETIES**

Pictured Above (left to right): Top row — Albert Davis, Lamont Fenner, Allie Butterfield, Penny Klingbeil, Elon Keeler; bottom row — Joe Justus, Sam Lieuwen, Lee Luick, Dick Parker, Manager W. E. Bullard.



**READIN', 'RITIN' AND 'RITHMETIC —
CLASS OF 1916 STYLE**

Sidelights

The first frame dwelling was erected in Belmond by Martin and S. G. Pritchard in August 1855. Martin Pritchard had a blacksmith shop at that early day —probably the first in Wright County. The first sermon was preached there by Rev. McNutt, and the first religious society formed in the county, the United Brethren church, was organized there.

The first attorney to practice law at Belmond was Omer Kent, J. L. Morse was the second and Z. C. Bradshaw, later a Methodist minister, was the third. After these there was a W. Eskridge who was later killed by the Indians in a massacre in Colorado.

The first marriage was that of J. E. Rowen and Catherine McNutt in 1856, the ceremony being performed by J. M. Elder.

The pioneer farms were mostly sloughs with an occasional high spot. Fred Luick once planted a field of wheat on his land and the wild fowl, geese, ducks, etc., were so numerous that he protected the crop with a gun. It is hard to imagine farming with no land tilled as it is today, no plowing done, just wild prairie, stumps and rocks, snakes, Indians, and a variety of other obstacles.

The last buffalo — An unknown animal, sighted by a 12 year old boy carrying water to the field, near the Moore farm, occupied by the James Kent family, was found to be a Buffalo. It had frightened horses and oxen and was finally shot. It was mam-

moth in size. It was dressed and the meat was sold in Iowa Falls.

The first wagon maker in Belmond was Lon Cornwell.

On February 8, 1898, one of the coldest days of the winter, fire destroyed the principal business block of Belmond. This was a frame building occupied by N. M. Wolcott, Dan Eldred and C. C. McGuire on the first floor, and by the Masonic Lodge hall, I.O.O.F. lodge hall and some other offices on the second floor. The supposition was that the fire started in the Odd Fellows' Hall, where a stove had been used to heat the room for a lodge meeting the night before. When he came to work in the morning, N. M. Wolcott discovered that the ceiling of his store was nearly all burned and fire spreading in all directions. It was too late to save this business block and the office of Dr. Cutler and the Dunlap jewelry store to the east were also destroyed. Other adjoining buildings and the business houses across the street were saved because of the fact that the temperature registered 35 degrees below zero and water thrown upon these buildings froze in a perfect sheet of ice, covering the structures so that the fire could not penetrate.

Grandma Gray was one of the noted characters of the early days. The Gray family with seven children came here with the Overackers. One feature



THE UNION BLOCK IN THE EARLY 'NINETIES; NOTE HITCHING RACKS

about this family to which early settlers gave a great deal of credit, is the fact that they were the first family to bring horses and cattle and so helped the other settlers get a start in the livestock business. After Grandma Gray's family grew up, she became the first practical nurse in this locality, and also knitted stockings for the neighbors' youngsters. She lived in the southeast part of the woods and would take her covered knitting basket on her arm and walk miles to visit some friend or neighbor, knitting briskly as she walked along. She was a Quakeress and could repeat the Bible and the dictionary at great length. She was always a welcome caller and sometimes stayed a week with her hostess, but often the children of the family were a little frightened upon seeing her in the morning sitting up in bed with a white night cap on her head, smoking a clay pipe.

At one time a town was started about four miles south of Belmond. An eastern woman named Mrs. Wheeler bought this land for speculation and had about 640 acres laid out into town lots, naming the place Ontario. She built a two story building and gave it to the county in order to have the courthouse located in her new town. A very clever map of the place was made. On it drawings of a large courthouse, brick blocks and beautiful streets bustling with activity. Some of our own people bought lots and the map was taken back east where Mrs. Wheeler sold lots in her "paper town" to eastern parties, who little realized the "town" was only a broad expanse of wild prairie. After selling all the "town property" she could, the remainder was traded to J. A. Sheriff, for a block of buildings in an eastern city. About this time Wm. Purdy was a stage driver and met Mr. Sheriff in Clarion when he came out to see his valuable property and to investigate the water power which had been represented to him as having great possibilities. Mr. Purdy took him to his land, where he learned the truth. Mr. Sheriff sued the woman for damages, and the trials were carried through several years, but the woman gained the case by her shrewdness, while the eastern gentleman returned to Pennsylvania, wise to the fact that a woman speculator is a master hand in dealing in "blue sky."

The Lovejoy Press used by several of Belmond's early newspapers has an interesting history. Elijah Lovejoy was publishing the St. Louis "Observer" at the time, when a negro was taken from the jail by a mob and killed. When the Judge at the trial absolved the murderers of guilt, Mr. Lovejoy objected strenuously in his next paper. This led to the destruction of his office by the mob. The citizens of Alton, Illinois, just over the river, demanded that the paper should be re-established. Mr. Lovejoy

bought a new press and made an attempt at Alton to continue the paper, but again his office was mobbed and the press sunken in the Mississippi river. This must have been about 1857. It was afterward recovered by a negro who took it to McGregor and sold it to a printer. The press showed signs of having been in the water a long time. It passed into different hands and finally reached Clear Lake and was purchased by Judge Rosecrans, from there it was brought to Belmond and sold to G. G. Pritchard who established the first newspaper.



PRESENT PAVING WAS LAID IN 1919

In the early days, all counties were ruled by "one man power" in the person of the county judge. Henry Luick, elected August 8, 1863, served as Wright county judge for four years, and John L. Morse, elected in October, 1867, served as county judge for one year. The office of county judge was then abolished and that of county auditor took its place. John L. Morse then served seven years as county auditor.

In 1856 the total population of Wright County was 427. In 1950 the population of the county was 19,652.

In 1875 Belmond had a population of 300, the largest town in the county, with three churches, a bank, a newspaper, two hotels, stores, shops and a respectable number of homes. In 1950 the population of Belmond was 2,169.

INDIAN SCARE

In March of 1857 came Iowa's great Indian scare, the Spirit Lake Massacre.

The news of the terrible butchery spread over the Northwest and finally reached the settlement at Belmond. Though many other settlers in this part of the state fled from their homes to avoid the scalping knife or the tomahawk of the blood thirsty Indians, our people were of sterner fibre and the settlers of Belmond and Pleasant townships, with a number of men from Hancock county, met in Dr.

Cutler's store and organized themselves into a military company with the doctor as captain.

The men set to work and erected a mud fort on the west side of the river, on the top of the hill so as to overlook the village.

The wives were as brave as the husbands and remained to share whatever fate might bring. The women were all gathered in one log cabin, doing the cooking and everything possible to assist the men.

Pickets were established and sentinels posted and everything assumed a military aspect. After several days, two men were sent to the Boone settlement to ascertain how friends in that locality fared. They found everything still and silent with every home deserted. But there was no sign of the savages. As these two men did not return when expected two more scouts were sent out. Finding no one at Boone, they headed their horses down the stream, with revolvers in hand and alert for every emergency. All at once a sound came to their ears, as of something moving through the underbrush. With true western courage they charged toward the spot, bound to find out what caused the noise. Arriving at the spot they heard the sound of something going across the prairie at great speed. Firing their revolvers as they raced in pursuit, they came upon a poor old cow browsing prairie grass. This joke was repeated for many years.

The other two scouts were located and they all returned home, having observed no signs of Indians. They found the Belmond settlers still maintaining the garrison with steadfast purpose. Fortunately, the Indians failed to arrive and thus ended the great Indian scare.



ARCHIBALD DUMOND

THE FIRST BRICK HOUSE

Archibald Dumond and others built a kiln near where the Great Western depot now stands and made brick of native clay. Frank Rother was foreman and William Luick molder, while Fred Luick and others helped.

One hundred thousand fine brick were molded, placed in the kilns, the wood was ready for lighting



"THE OLD BRICK HOUSE"

for fires, when torrents of rain began to fall. The river rose until it reached the bricks and they melted into a mighty puddle of mud.

With a great effort and some danger, about ten thousand bricks were saved, and the river swept away fire wood, boards and tools. Another effort at brick making proved a success and a kiln of excellent brick were made. Mr. Dumond built from these the brick house on the hill, which still stands.

THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE

The first automobile that ever came to town was an Oldsmobile, a single cylinder car owned by Harry Tyrrell. When they unloaded the 'one-lunger,' as it was called, from the boxcar, no one knew how



MRS. A. DUMOND

to get the contraption started. After many turns of knobs and levers, and vast cranking, the car popped off, and Tyrrell started up town — in low gear. They didn't know there was another gear in it. For four days the car was run around in low gear. One day Bill Tyrrell, driving, got stuck on the cemetery hill. In shifting gears, he shifted to second, and the car wouldn't pull. By accident he got started in low and shifted to high, which was the first anyone was aware that the car had two speeds. This old car was a great and overpowering curiosity at that time. In attempting to put the "critter" in the barn, used as a garage, Bill Tyrrell at his first attempt went on through without stopping for the opposite wall.

OVER-EAGERNESS BEATS BELMOND OUT OF COUNTY COURTHOUSE

In August, 1855, a plan was proposed to organize the county and of course this started a rivalry between the two principal settlements, one on the Boone River, the other on the Iowa River, called Belmond.

The meeting for the west side was held at the log cabin of S. B. Hewett, Sr., on the Boone River. At about the same time the affair for the east side was held at Horse Grove, now Rowan, midway between Franklin Grove, now Belmond, and Otis Grove, now known as Dows. This meeting was engineered by four persons at Belmond; Dr. Cutler, Henry Luick, Archie Dumond, and a party named Brooks. It was called to order by Brooks and Dr. Cutler was given the honor of the chair. As a matter of fact, there were more actual legal voters on the east side than there were on the western borders, but over-anxiety on the part of some of the citizens at Belmond, in order to be doubly sure, they allowed men to vote who had not become actual voters within the true meaning of the law. Hence the election of the east side was declared illegal throughout, and the election on the west side prevailed.

TRAGEDY OF 1870

The drowning of five men and the violent death in the mill of another, all in one week, brought sorrow and sadness around every hearth throughout the whole community. A bridge which spanned the Iowa River was carried away with the ice as it went out of the river in the spring of 1870. At the east end of this bridge was located the mill whose dam was a short distance above the bridge.

On Saturday, the 9th of April, 1870, William Rowen, George W. Royce, and Dudley Gilman of Belmond, in company with R. P. Rowley of Horse

Grove, and S. F. Ainsley of Clarion ventured to take passage across the river from the west to the east side in the vicinity of the dam in a boat that had been used for the same purpose by other parties. It was stated that they made the venture with no other propelling power than a pole, and to this may be attributed the sad results. Before they had reached halfway across the river, they discovered to their great dismay that the boat was fast being drawn into the whirlpool caused by the great rush of water over the dam. Every effort was put forth to avoid the threatening danger, every nerve was strained to keep the boat clear of the yawning gulf. But all in vain. Finding that it was impossible to avoid impending doom, one of the five, William Rowen, jumped from the boat. Scarcely had the form of Mr. Rowen disappeared beneath the waves, than the treacherous boat capsized and the other four occupants fell into the seething river, and all five were drowned. To add still more to this deplorable accident, each of the five left families to mourn their untimely end.

While yet in the depths of grief over the loss of five of their neighbors, a sixth was added to the list in the person of Mr. J. F. Fulton, who a week or so after the drownings was caught in the machinery of the mill and mangled to death.

It was a long time before the people of Belmond recovered from the shock received from these disastrous events.

THE FIRST WOMAN'S CLUB

The first Woman's Club in Belmond was named "The Holly Press Club" in honor of Marietta Holly whose pen name was "Samantha Allen" and who was a favorite author at that time.

It was started about 1892 and members were required to be writers who had been paid for published manuscripts.

At one time the members published a special edition of the Iowa Valley Press and a story called "The Harlows" ran in the Press as a serial and later was issued in book form.

The members were Mrs. Estelle Mendell Amory, M. Jeannette Amory, Mrs. W. M. Ballard, Mrs. Mary Felton, Mrs. Alice Packard Luick, Mrs. E. D. Paige, Mrs. Isadora Rogers Notestine, Mrs. Emma Stapley, Mrs. M. J. O. Whiting, Mrs. Mary B. Whiting, Miss Kate Schleiffarth, and Miss Theodosia Whiting.

Old Rememberings

By Elizabeth B. Lieuwen

When I was a child, our family lived in an unpainted house on the prairie. My father, when telling a story, always called it "the old black house on the top of the hill." How could this house that was home to us hold so much of magic for the children who lived in it? Warm and snug were we and secure from the outside world, having all the good things that go into the making of a home, but none of the luxuries.

We lived rather an isolated life compared with the standards of today. A trip to town was really a treat. One Saturday, I happened to be chosen to be my father's companion on his trip to town for supplies for ourselves and the neighbors.

The horses were hitched to the spring wagon and I, dressed in my Sunday best, was boosted into the high spring seat. After many instructions from my mother as to what my behavior should be, my father climbed into the seat beside me and we were off. My father was an interesting companion. He was of a poetic nature and had a verse or a maxim to fit any occasion. He was also a lover of the great out of doors, so every bird and roadside flower was a topic of conversation. In our leisurely mode of travel we had time to observe and enjoy these things.

We passed the Hinman farm. The big basement barn was the only one of its kind in the country and was greatly admired by us. Mr. Hinman, like my father, was a lover of horses and one of the horses we were driving had been purchased at the Hinman farm. The basement barn stands today and is in good condition. We passed the Quackenboss farm and that name always intrigued me.

We stopped at the Jake Waltz place with its hedge of lilacs in full bloom. Mr. Waltz asked for a ride to town. He was a Civil War veteran. His wife, a spry little old woman, did all the work and Jake lived the life of a country gentleman.

We approached town by way of Poverty Hill. There were two roads down the hill but today we chose to go past the big brick house at the top of a very steep incline with the railroad track at the foot of the hill.

The Great Western Railroad was the life line of Belmont for supplies being shipped in or out and also for passenger service. The wooden sidewalk leading to the depot was the promenade ground of

Belmont. We always saw people, carrying valises, walking to the depot, or others just out for a walk. They would stop and lean over the railing of the bridge and watch the water as it flowed over the dam and turned the big water wheel of the old Belmont mill.

As we crossed the bridge we met the bus going to the station. I thought it was a gorgeous affair, all glassed in and lamps at the side and Mr. Stapley in the driver's seat cracking his whip over a little black team. There were always traveling men riding in the bus. How I envied them and hoped that someday I could ride in a coach of that kind.

Father drove up to the side of Jacobson's store and tied the team to the hitching post. This store was our hanging out place and it was where we purchased all our groceries and dry goods. I remember Julia behind the counter, measuring off calico, ribbons and laces. Oscar was at the bookkeeper's desk and Mr. Jacobson presided over the grocery department. There were crackers and oatmeal in open barrels and a big coffee grinder which was turned by hand. At noon we would have a lunch of cheese and crackers.

While my father was attending to the various items of business for himself and the neighbors, I was free to entertain myself.

Next to Jacobson's store was Mr. Kane's Jewelry Store. Wm. Kane was an old man with long white hair and a flowing beard. Father always stopped to visit with him and he would take down his violin and play a piece for us.

Then there was the law office of E. P. Ripley and next to that a unique place of business, the Briggs harness and millinery shop. The place smelled of leather and harness oil and on one side Mrs. Briggs displayed the latest creations in millinery. Next to the harness shop was Nick Reese's Hardware store, beautifully kept, and where hardware, high in price, but of fine quality, was sold.

I must mention the Belmont Herald printing office and its editor, E. A. Pierce. He was a highly educated man. His office was a littered place and how he managed to get out a weekly edition is still a wonder to me. Here is a verse, oft quoted by my



MAIN STREET ON JULY 4TH IN THE 'NINETIES. NO ONE-HORSE-TOWN WAS BELMONDI

father, that at one time appeared in the Herald —

"The Belmond Herald, the tried and true
And the many good things it has said about you,
From the day you were born 'til you married or
died
And never has knowingly slandered or lied."

On the corner was the E. L. Tiede Dry Goods Emporium where Anna Cantwell handled the Dry Goods section for many years.

I had been given five pennies to spend — a fortune to me. N. M. Wolcott's on the north side of the street had the nicest selection of candies in town. I went in there clutching my precious pennies tightly in my hand. I looked long at the array of candies before I could decide what to buy. Mr. Wolcott had wonderful patience waiting for me and no doubt he thought I was a queer specimen of humanity. Finally after long deliberation, I said, "I'll take a penny's worth of licorice, a penny's worth of gum, a penny's worth of horehound stick candy, a penny's worth of candy hearts, and a penny's worth of pink candy bananas." Mr. Wolcott, perfect gentleman that he was, never cracked a smile, but put the selection of sweets into a striped paper bag and I reluctantly handed over the five pennies.

When I got back to Jacobson's corner, Father was loading in the groceries and we were ready to start home. As we passed the Kern Hotel, Henry Crist and Hank Diehl were leaning back in chairs out in front and I thought "What a life of leisure." We went past Chris Furuseth's elevator across the Great Western track. A matched team of white horses were in the tread mill, elevating the grain. How strange I thought to tramp and tramp and never get anywhere.

As we passed the Dyer Martin farm we stopped and father and Dyer visited about his cattle feeding in the yard. The Martin barn also was "a thing of beauty." Most of the buildings on the prairie were so humble that I couldn't help but comment on the Hinman and Martin barns.

The sun was going down now and what a wonderful view. As we pulled into the gate at home, my little brother with a lantern in his hand, ran out to meet us. I was clutching the sack of candy tightly in my hands. It was a little sticky by this time but it was to be my treat to the ones who stayed at home. A tired little girl was lifted down from the spring seat. Supper was ready and everyone wanted to hear about the trip to town. It had been a day of great adventure.

The Churches of Belmond

METHODIST

The Methodist Church was organized in the year of 1860 with five members, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Overacker, Mr. and Mrs. James Jenison, and Elizabeth Connell. The first meetings were held in the homes of the members. In 1874, the



METHODIST CHURCH

church was built. This was done with a lot of donated labor. The pastor was Rev. C. B. Winger. The

parsonage was built in about 1878. The cost of the first church, lot and furniture, was the sum of \$3,794.00. The first Sunday school was organized in 1878 with an attendance of 70.

The church was remodeled several times during the years. The old parsonage was sold in 1915 and the present one erected.

On October 10, 1955, a campaign was started for funds for the purpose of erecting a new church and an educational unit. The lots at the east end of Main Street had been purchased for the sum of \$3,000.00. On January 26, 1956, a contract was entered into by the Official Board and Mr. A. H. Hattendorf for the building of the proposed church. The cost of the new edifice is to be approximately \$150,000. Work was begun on May 14, 1956.

CONGREGATIONAL

The history of the Congregational Church goes back to the infancy of the town, having its origin in a Sunday School organized in 1866 with S. N. Hinman as superintendent. In the winter of 1866-67,

two Congregational ministers held a series of meetings here, resulting in the organization of the first church for the small town in March, 1867. The community was too small to cherish sectarian pride and individualism, and so this first church sought to be a church for the entire community. The charter members were four Baptists, four Methodists and four Congregationalists. Articles of faith were adopted, deacons elected, and a delegate elected to attend the Northwest Association of Congregational Churches that fall at Algona.

At first the church met in the school but soon moved to Pierce's Hall where it met for fifteen years. During this period the Methodists withdrew. It was at this rather discouraging time that a man



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

from Iowa Falls was called as pastor-John D. Sands, a man of 56 years of age. The church grew under his 34 years of leadership, and he made a great impact upon both the church and community, being affectionately referred to as "Father" Sands.

The first church building was dedicated on Dec. 31, 1882 and was built for \$3,000. In later years another structure was erected over this building, and it was noted for its beautiful stained glass windows. It burned in 1935 and was a great blow to the church. It took three years of struggle and sacrifice in those depression years to build the present edifice.

The church has had at least four of its men enter the ministry during the years and one woman who served as a missionary among the Negroes of the South.

The church completed a new parsonage in the spring of this year, and work has commenced upon an addition to the church. This new "Youth Center" will be used for educational and recreational purposes and is in keeping with the history of the church seeking to serve the community. The one hundred and fifty resident members of today are agreed that there's still work to be done and are

committed to making the future of the church as great and honorable as her past.

ST. FRANCIS

The history of St. Francis Parish is a record of achievement of both pastor and flock. It offers a glimpse of the hardships endured by pioneer priests and the sacrifices made for the cause of the faith by our forefathers.

The first Catholic services were held at Belmond in the fall of 1870 by Father Peter O'Dowd who was stationed at Ackley a distance of over fifty miles from Belmond. Belmond had no Church and Mass was celebrated and the Sacraments administered in private home. It was not long however, until a little Church was built under the supervision of Father O'Dowd. The faithful did most of the work of building the Church, even constructing the pews.

Father O'Keefe and Father T. J. Brennan cared for the parish for short periods until 1883 when Father J. J. Hanley was made the first pastor. Father Hanley remained but six months, and was succeeded by Father John W. Toohill. During Father Toohill's pastorate, Thomas Barry entered St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, and became the first priest from the parish.

Father John Egan assumed the duties of pastor of Belmond on December 25, 1887. The pastors of



ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Belmond also had charge of the Clarion parish until near the close of the century when a pastor was appointed to Clarion. Father Egan, a very energetic and zealous pastor, built the present edifice, which was completed in the spring of 1900. Having completed the Church, Father Egan became sick and went south in search of health where he contracted smallpox and died.

Father McInerney succeeded Father Egan and was pastor for ten years. There was universal sorrow at the death of this good priest who was well

known throughout the community. In April 1912 Father Michael Eardley was appointed pastor. Perhaps no priest has ever succeeded better in winning the hearts of people than did this happy priest of God. Father Eardley was appointed pastor of Anamosa in August, 1925, and was succeeded by Father Patrick Malloy. Father Malloy remained as pastor of Belmond until the spring of 1932, when Father Stephen Mauer was installed on May 20th. In February, 1939, Father Mauer was made pastor of St. Patrick's, Cedar Falls. In June of that year, Father Duane Brady said his first Mass in St. Francis Church. In June of the same year the present pastor, Rev. R. A. Ormsby, was appointed pastor and assumed his pastoral duties July 10th. The following year Rev. Ronald Axen offered his First Solemn High Mass on May 20th. On Saturday, June 2nd, 1956 in a very beautiful ceremony, Father Edward J. McNulty sang his First Solemn High Mass. It was a very happy occasion for the parish and especially for Mr. and Mrs. T. P. McNulty and all members of the family.

ST. OLAF AND TRINITY LUTHERAN

In the spring of 1869 a small train of ox-drawn covered wagons brought to this community a few Norwegian families from La Crosse County, Wis., who pitched camp 5 miles northwest of Belmond. These were Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Simerson and child, Mr. C. M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hanson and three boys. Among others of the Lutheran faith who followed were: the Ole Jacobsons, Hans Jacobsons, Thomas Thompsons, Lars Furuseths, M. L. Skovlin and brother, Andrew Skovlin, and Helge Nelsons.

On May 28, 1872 they organized the "Ringsaker Norwegian Lutheran Congregation", "Ringsaker" being the parish in Hedemarken, Norway, from



ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

which these settlers had originally come. Their first pastor was O. A. Sauer, who drove from Story County at irregular intervals to minister to these people.

The first three years they met in the log houses of the members, then in the country schoolhouse.

In 1875 Pastor N. Pedersen came from the vicinity of Dows, bought a quarter section of land 6 miles northwest of Belmond and built a home. He received as ministerial salary \$125.00 per year and was largely dependent on his farming operations for a living. At that time the congregation numbered some 30 families, all hardpressed from the rigors of pioneer life.

In 1886 a doctrinal controversy arose and resulted in withdrawal of a number of families, who formed the St. Olaf Norwegian Congregation and built a church about 6 miles northwest of Belmond, at a cost of \$3,000.00 Rev. H. C. Holm of Cambridge, Iowa, was the first pastor, followed by J. J. Akre and J. Hetland.

Meanwhile, Ringsaker Congregation continued



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

to meet in a country schoolhouse till 1895 when they built a church in town at a cost of \$2,000. They had no resident pastor but were served by Rev. Eric Ballestad of Thor, Rev. C. H. Fechtenberg of Latimer, Rev. J. B. Unseth and Rev. J. M. Hestenes of Thor.

In 1917 following a merger of three Norwegian church bodies (the United, Synode and Hauges under the name Evangelical Lutheran Church) St. Olaf and Ringsaker were again under the same synodical jurisdiction. The name "Ringsaker" was changed to "Trinity".

Since 1917 St. Olaf and Trinity have continued as one parish served in succession by Rev. J. M. Jensen, Rev. B. Guldseth and Rev. O. M. Severseike. The St. Olaf church has been enlarged and modernized now and then over the years and with a membership of 70 families is a vigorous spiritual force in the rural community. Ten fulltime Christian workers have gone forth from their midst to serve: Mrs. Anna Hauge Martinson to China; Henry Shurson, George Shurson, Olai Hill, Truman Benson, Henry Norem, Blaine Gunderson, Clifford Nelson,

Everett Nelson, to parishes in the United States, and Herbert Nelson to Africa.

Trinity Congregation in Oct. 1949 completed and dedicated its new \$125,000.00 brick structure across the street from the old Trinity church to accommodate its increasing membership. Five members have gone into fulltime Christian service: Miss Pearl Larson to Africa; Mrs. Leila Packard Jacobson to Madagascar; Mrs. Judy Olsen Knutson has been working among the Spanish-Americans both in Columbia, South America and the United States; Richard Johnson also in this country; and Raymond Mehl is soon to be ordained. Trinity has a membership of 170 families.

Also in 1949 a \$14,000 brick parsonage was built by the St. Olaf-Trinity parish on the site of the old Trinity church.

IMMANUEL REFORMED

Immanuel Reformed Church was organized September 17, 1884, having at that time thirty-six members. Services were held in a nearby school-house for two years. Five acres of land was given by elder Lambert Pals on which the parsonage was built in 1884 and later the church in 1886. This church located four miles east of Belmond has been served by seven ministers, Rev. R. Janssen, Rev. J.



IMMANUEL REFORMED CHURCH

DeBeer, Rev. A. J. Reeverts, Rev. J. G. Theilken, Rev. E. H. Thorman, Rev. A. H. Waalkes and Rev. O. G. Poppen.

The ministers and members of this church have helped to establish four nearby Reformed churches: The Zion Reformed Church of Chapin in 1890, the Alexander Reformed church in 1896, the Meservey Reformed church in 1907, and the Bethany Reformed church in the town of Belmond.

The Classis of Pleasant Prairie was organized at this church June 16, 1892.

Rev. O. G. Poppen, who faithfully served this church for thirty-two years, recently moved to

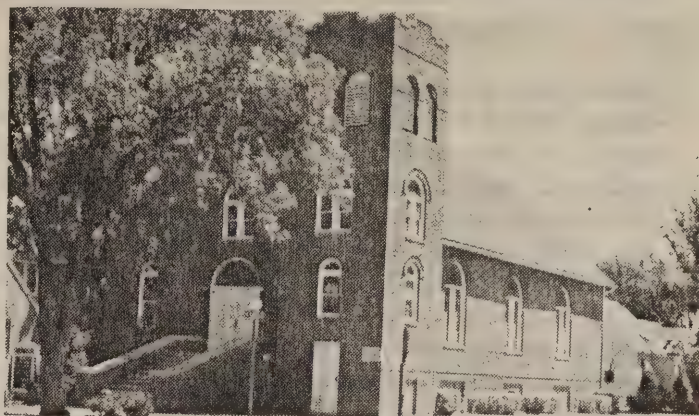
Grundy Center, Iowa, where he is serving as a supply minister to the vacant churches.

Four sons of families of this church are serving as ministers; Rev. E. Buschman, Rev. Bruno Bruns, Rev. Henry Poppen and Rev. George Poppen.

The Immanuel church has a ninety-one family membership and Sunday School enrollment of one hundred seven. Church services are held each Sunday morning and evening.

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

The history of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church goes back to the year 1895 when a number of German speaking families from Peru, Illinois, settled in the Belmond community. These people joined other Lutherans already in this area and asked Pastor A. Wellner of Goodell, Iowa, to conduct services for them. Under his leadership on September



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

21, 1903, St. John congregation was organized. The next forward step was the purchase of the German Methodist church and parsonage in Belmond.

With the arrival of Pastor W. Meier, who served the young congregation from 1909 until 1917, followed a period of growth and development. It was during his pastorate that an occasional service was conducted in the American language. His successor, Pastor M. Knoll, continued this policy until the language question was solved.

The next forward stride came in 1926 during Rev. J. F. Wipperman's pastorate with the construction and dedication of the present house of worship. Except for minor repairs and some interior remodeling the church has remained essentially the same. In spite of some difficult times from 1927 to 1944 when the following pastors labored at St. John's, The Reverends A. G. Langholz, A. P. Meyer, R. J. Huck, and H. Knoploh, progress continued.

As the congregation enjoyed growth and prosperity the members decided to replace the old par-

sonage with the present beautiful and modern home. This venture became a reality in 1947 when Rev. H. Senft was the pastor. His successor was Pastor Leo Widdel and since 1955 Rev. Wm. Heinzig has been serving St. John congregation.

Thus, along with Belmond, St. John Church has faced its problems and continued to grow in serving the spiritual needs of many, and opens its portals to young and old who seek the Lord's grace and blessing.

FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

The one hundred years of Belmond's history has seen a new church born. Our church came into existence out of the evangelism tent meetings under the direction of Evangelist and Mrs. Wes Auger which were held in the year of 1940. Several people were saved during these meetings. These people saw the



BELMOND BAPTIST CHURCH

need of a sound evangelical church in the community. Having such a vision the people incorporated into a church.

During the church's history we have had five pastors. Our first pastor was Reverend Harold Huford. Under his ministry we were organized and strengthened. He served with us during those early hard years. The other pastors that came to be our shepherds were Reverend Lloyd Holms, Reverend Lester Williams, Reverend Robert Pollock, and Reverend Arthur Rollene. These pastors have guided and led us in these years. The church has marched forward in both spiritual and material growth under their leadership.

The years of the life of the Fundamental Baptist Church have been eventful ones. Naturally, we have had some trying moments. But our mountain top experiences have encouraged us to lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us that we might run with patience the race that is set before us, and press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

BETHANY REFORMED

In the Spring Session of Classis Pleasant Prairie in the year 1952 there was a request by the minister Rev. O. G. Poppen and the consistory of the Immanuel Reformed Church that a survey be made of the city of Belmond as to the possibility of having



BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH

a church in that city. This was granted and the survey was conducted. The possibilities looked promising and a request made to Fall Session of Classis of the same year to hold Worship services. The Classis of the Reformed Church in America offered the services of their ministers every Sunday. At a special session of the Classis in January of 1952 the Mission which had begun in Belmond requested organization into a full-fledged congregation. Classis arranged that the people be organized into a congregation on February 1st, 1953, at which time 39 members were received into the church. The name chosen for the newly organized congregation was the Bethany Reformed Church of Belmond, Iowa. In May the congregation called their present pastor, Rev. Ralph S. Meyer who was then a student in the Western Theological Seminary at Holland, Mich. He accepted the call. In the latter part of May Bethany bought a parsonage and on June 8th their new pastor moved into his home.

The congregation progressed under Pastor Meyer's leadership and in due time, October of 1954, the mortgage was burned signifying the parsonage had been paid for completely. Immediately following this the congregation expressed the desire to have a church building of their own. They had been meeting in the Belmond Public Library basement. Plans were drawn and obtained and in the spring of 1954 plans were chosen and the finances arranged so that the congregation was able to purchase lots in the Kirkendall Addition and in August had a groundbreaking service followed by the cornerstone laying on Sunday, November 13th. The building was constructed by the A. R. Dorr Sons and with much help from the congregation. In April of 1956 the new

structure was completed and the dedication services were held on April 11th, 1956.

In these three years the congregation has continued to grow so that at present the congregation numbers 39 families or 67 members.

Organizations

BELMOND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Organized in 1939 as the Belmont Community Club, the Belmont Chamber of Commerce changed its name in 1944 so that it might more effectively carry out the objectives of its corporate charter, which are, in part: "To develop, encourage, promote, and protect the commercial, professional, financial and general interest; to promote the civic interest and the general welfare and development of the city."

More than 85 business and professional men support the Chamber, and participate in its activities. Before World War II, the Chamber helped establish a hot lunch program for the school children, and contributed more than \$1100 for the first uniforms for the high school band. During the War it assisted in the scrap rubber and iron drives, helped establish and pay the cost of the wartime rationing office, and built and maintained the Honor Roll Board of servicemen.

In 1952 the Chamber actively assisted in the successful drive for the Community Hospital, and has co-operated in all programs leading toward a better Belmont.

JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Belmont Jaycees were chartered by the International, National and State Jr. Chambers of Commerce in February of 1955. They were incorporated as a non-profit organization in April. The first president was Duane Anderson. This community service organization for men 21 to 35 is dedicated to the Community and to promoting leadership among its members. In its first year of existence it won the Milestone trophy as the most outstanding first year club in the state and subsequently was named the third best first year club in the nation. Although still new in Belmont, the Jaycees have become known as a group that "gets things done."

KING SOLOMON LODGE, A.F. & A.M.

King Solomon Lodge No. 210 was organized in 1866 and on June 5th, 1867, they received their charter to operate as a just and lawfully constituted lodge. Mr. J. M. Elder was the first Master and con-

tinued in office until 1869 when L. H. Cutler was chosen Master. During the 89 years of existence there have been 45 Masters of whom 24 are still living. The Lodge has become widely scattered through the years, and today its members are in 13 different states. Ervin Halverson is the present Master, Harold Haugen is Senior Warden and Rodney Moore is the Junior Warden.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

On March 27, 1907 a group of seven Belmont people affiliated with the Order of Eastern Star elsewhere, met with the Grand Worthy Matron of Iowa to form a Chapter in Belmont. The Charter was granted on Oct. 24, 1907, with a membership of 21. Mrs. Amy Meyer and Supt. Neven were the first Matron and Patron. Charter members still living are Mrs. Mary Fitts, Mrs. Mona Goelz, and Mrs. Mabel Lewis. 40 Matrons and 25 Patrons have served Belmont chapter. The Lodge is active and enthusiastically supported by its present membership of 116.

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ODD FELLOWS LODGE

The Belmont Lodge was instituted December 16, 1873 and is one of the older organizations in Belmont. There were seven charter members — H. Parker, D. L. Cuppett, L. E. Metcalf, E. A. Howland, M. F. Weber, Samuel Zehrung and C. B. Winter. The hall and all their regalia was burned in the winter of 1898. This building stood where the building now occupied by Kessler's, Thompsen and Keleher, and Alderson's cafe is located. As soon as the present building was completed the lodge moved into it and occupied that hall until the present hall was built in 1931. On September 21, 1920 Goodell Lodge No. 535 consolidated with the Belmont Lodge. The present membership numbers about 125 very active members. The present officers are Harold Vanness, Glen Morris, Paul Ahlstrom, George Hinman, and James Larson. The lodge has members belonging to the other two branches of the order, namely, the Encampment Branch and The Patriarch Militant branch. The lodge has enjoyed, from the point of fraternal orders, a healthy, steady growth through the years with its symbol of friendship, love and truth.

REBEKAH LODGE

The Golden Rod Rebekah Lodge, Belmont, Iowa, was organized and received their state charter, on October 20, 1892. The following were the charter members: George W. Cram, D. E. Packard, J. E. Middleton, G. B. Pond, Mamey Pond, H. E. Savercool, Mary E. Cram, Rose Luick, Amelia Mallory, Frank

Dunlap, Anna Savercool, Mary Whiting, E. A. Pierce, A. E. Whiting, M. H. Luick, Nettie Sands, Hattie Dunlap, D. L. Mallory, Henrietta Packard, Mary Middleton, J. S. Sands, E. L. Tiede, Emma Pierce, and E. S. Christie. The first meeting place was over the McGuire Brothers Clothing Store until the big fire in 1898, when all records were lost. Later that same year, after the Union Block was built, the meetings were held over the Joe Bohning General Merchandise Store until the year 1931, when the new I. O. O. F. Hall was completed. Since that time many changes and improvements have been made in the Hall, and the Rebekah Lodge has steadily grown in membership until at present there are one hundred fifty six members. This organization is always ready and willing to cooperate and help in all ways for the good of the community as needed.

AMERICAN LEGION

Eimbrink Post No. 35 American Legion, received its charter June 5, 1919. Its original membership and charter members totaled 16. It now boasts a membership of 116.

Post No. 35 was named after Harvey Eimbrink who died while in service at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Dec. 8, 1917, at the age of 24.

The American Legion sends one boy a year to Hawkeye Boys State, it sponsors athletic contests and safety campaigns.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

At the Request of Dr. Steele, Post Commander, Mrs. J. E. Wallace, whose son was in the students' Army Training Corps at Iowa City, called a meeting of ladies to form an Auxiliary unit. The permanent charter was granted on April 28, 1922, with fifty-four charter members. Mrs. Wallace was the first president. There is now a Junior Auxiliary, too. The purpose is to promote peace and good will and to perform community service.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The Charter of the Belmond Veterans of Foreign Wars was given the official seal of the association July 6, 1945. The official name given to the Belmond chapter was Pierce-Zeiger Post No. 4244 in honor of Leroy Pierce, who lost his life in World War I, and Joseph Zeiger, who lost his life in World War II. Forty one names are listed on the original charter and the membership has grown to the present total of one hundred one. The purpose of the VFW is to preserve memories of those who died in the wars, to assist widows and orphans, promote comradeship of its members and to maintain true allegiance and patriotism.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

On the twenty-third of Nov., 1945, the Sixth District President of Fort Dodge, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, called a special meeting of Ladies Auxiliary, Pierce-Zeiger Post No. 4244 at the home of Mrs. Claude Thayer. On Nov. 27, 1945, the Auxiliary was instituted in Belmond in its Public Library room. The sixth district department officers put on the installation and the Clarion Auxiliary put on the floor work. The 50 charter members and officers were initiated and installed at this time. Ruth Hardwick was elected our first president. The object of the auxiliary is to promote a fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational spirit and to aid and assist the post members of the VFW, of the United States, and its own members wherever possible. Larger quarters were needed so the meetings were later held in the American Legion Hall and now are held in the Vets Memorial Hall, 204 2nd Ave. SE.

LIONS CLUB

On October 20, 1951, a group of citizens from Belmond and surrounding community met at the City hall to organize a Lions club. The charter members were: Cecil Carstens, Russell Dougherty, Dana Howell, Dennis Hook, Mac Jensen, James H. Johnson, Dr. A. M. Larson, Clark McNeal, Dr. S. P. Leinbach, Ed Kennedy, L. Grosinger, L. W. Murray, L. B. Oberhauser, Ceaburn H. Squires, R. B. Thompson, R. C. Urdahl, Dr. P. A. Rietz, Daniel Boone, George Hansen, R. W. Courson, Bill Green, Dr. Glenn Hruska, A. P. Thompson, George Infelt, Rev. A. B. McKeith, Ardell Johnson, C. E. Wilmarth, Lowell Trafford, Ira Studebaker, Jr., and Dr. R. E. Misner.

Each year a "Man of the Year" has been selected. In 1952 it was Jack Shepard, in 1953 J. R. Gallagher, in 1954 R. G. (Bud) Packard and Glen Eccles, Scout leaders, in 1955 Don Faris, and in 1956 Dr. S. P. Leinbach.

In 1954 and 1955 the local Lions sold light bulbs to raise money for a sight fund. Because of the efforts of the local Lions club, Belmond is the second city in the state of Iowa, second only to Iowa City, to have the necessary facilities to transport eyes to the Iowa Eye Bank at Iowa City. Contributions have also been made to help buy typewriters for the blind.

During the comparatively short period of time that the Lions Club has been in existence in the town of Belmond, it has made its presence felt by the assistance it has lent to many worthy projects.

TOASTMASTERS

Toastmasters Club was formed in 1953 with Don Bunnell as its first president. The club now has 23 members and meets weekly at 7:00 p. m. in the office of the Tomahawk Hybrid Corn Co. The principal purposes of the club are threefold: 1. to develop personality. 2. to improve speaking ability, and 3. to develop latent capacities for leadership and service. The local chapter is part of the organization of Toastmasters International. The organization has grown from 20 clubs in 1932 to over 2,000 clubs in 1956 with over 50,000 members all over the world.

SPORTSMAN CLUB

The Belmond Sportsman Club was organized February 5, 1948, with 28 charter members. The Club has a constitution and by-laws. The officers consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and four board members. The club has continued to grow ever since it was organized. Some of the events that the club has sponsored are: the raising of baby pheasants, fox and crow hunts, building dams, etc. The one project that people look forward to is the annual children's fish derby. The attendance for the fish derby is better every year. The Belmond Sportsman Club looks forward to sponsor activities that help the community.

CLARMOND COUNTRY CLUB

The Clarmond Country Club takes its name from the two towns of Clarion and Belmond, the members of the club being mostly from these two communities. It was organized in the summer of 1919, by Dr. G. H. Steele and W. C. Tyrrell, Jr., of Belmond. Dr. Steele was the first president and the original membership was 60. The club was also incorporated in 1919 and acquired 54 acres of land on the northeast edge of Lake Cornelia. Golf links were laid out and in 1921 a clubhouse was built at a cost of \$9,000.

CEMETERY AID SOCIETY

The Belmond Cemetery Aid Society was organized Feb. 10, 1922 when 24 ladies met at the home of Mrs. F. O. Fitts. The following officers were elected. President, Mrs. D. L. Mallory; Vice President, Mrs. E. W. Luick; Secy. Mrs. C. P. (Mattie) Luick; Treas., Mrs. E. W. Luick. The aid was organized for the purpose of aiding the Cemetery Association, to beautify the Cemetery. The Aid has raised and spent thousands of dollars since 1922. They contributed \$500 toward the paving of the roads in the cemetery. They purchased six iron seats and six urns. They have purchased and placed flowers in the urns every year. Trees and shrubs were bought and set out

as necessary. The older members put in many hours of hard work at the cemetery those first years. They often had to walk out from town and back again. The only charter members living now are: Mrs. F. O. Fitts and Mrs. C. P. (Grace) Luick.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Belmond Community Hospital Auxiliary was organized in February 1955 at a meeting held in the library basement. Mrs. J. C. Enyart of Des Moines, the state organizer, was present to help launch the new group. Mr. Stuart Kutz, hospital administrator, was instrumental in getting the women of the community interested in this work. The officers chosen were: Mrs. A. T. Rollene, Pres., Mrs. R. H. Gowdy, Vice President, Mrs. Clifford Johnson, Secretary, and Miss Henrietta Pals, Treas. The membership is now 325. The purposes are twofold: First, Volunteer service within and for the hospital, personal and financial, and public education. Committees working actively are membership, public relations, flower, patient feeding, hospital cart, serving, promotion, hostess, coordination and memorial fund. The auxiliary meets quarterly and has an annual money-raising project, known as Hospital Appreciation Day. There are branch groups in Meservey, Goodell, Rowan and Alexander.

PROGRESS CLUB

The time was May, 1895, and the place, a little town in the prairie, near Franklin Grove, on the Iowa River. The people were twelve men and women earnestly interested in self-education. They formed a study club and called it University Extension. The outcome of this little drama is the Progress Club 61 years old this year. Progress Club is composed of twenty-four women, still earnestly striving together for self-betterment and enrichment of community life. Since 1903, they have been federated with a world-wide group of club women whose aims are similar. The group from which the Progress Club sprang was this University Extension of which first President was Mrs. M. S. Paige. Mame Finch was the Secretary, Mrs. C. R. Daniels, the treasurer, Mrs. D. D. Harr, press reporter and W. I. Rosecrans critic. One charter member of this group is still living, Mrs. W. S. Pritchard of Long Beach, California. Existing at the same time, in 1895, was the Holly Press Club, a most ambitious and talented club who published the twenty-eight page magazine called the Women's Edition of the Iowa Valley Press. This club later became associated with the club now known as Progress Club. In Progress Club, there are five members who have belonged for thirty-five years, and one who will have been a member fifty years this fall. She is Erma Elder, who joined the

club in 1906. Because there was so much interest in study clubs in our town, Progress Club was instrumental in helping form the Women's Club, just one year ago, and we also sponsored the Culture Study Club.

CULTURE STUDY CLUB

Culture Study Club was organized as Jr. Womens Club on Dec. 4, 1939, and joined State and County Federation Feb. 6, 1940 with nine charter members. We have one active charter member Doris Bonte.

The object of this club shall be the development of the members in intellectual endeavor, social fellowship and community service.

We have a limited membership of twenty members.

We have two meetings each month from September through May, with a Christmas dinner and party for members and a spring dinner and party for members and husbands.

WOMEN'S CLUB

Organized in November, 1955, and federated in December 1955, with a membership of seventy-four. The object of this club shall be the mutual improvement, advancement in general culture and the securing of benefits arising from organized effort. Being a departmental Club without limitations as to the number of members joining the organization, permits the opening of new departments or study groups as the membership desire.

CENTURY CLUB

The Delphian Club was organized March 4, 1919 by Miss Margaret McKenzie, representative from the national headquarters of the Delphian Society. Eleven members signed the charter as the original organizers. Eighteen names were added later to the charter. First officers were — President, Mrs. Marie Chamberlain, Vice President, Mrs. J. H. Edge, and Secretary-Treasurer, Mildred Schultz. Soon after the Delphian Club was organized they joined the state federation. The club used the regular Delphian study course prepared at Delphian headquarters for fifteen years, after which they dropped the Delphian affiliation, continuing as a study group under the name of Century Club.

HOME STUDY CLUB

The club was organized on Jan 21, 1944. The club meets the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. The present membership is twenty-nine. Members draw names for secret pals, enjoy a plant

exchange in May, and a Valentine exchange in Feb. A club picnic in July and Pot-luck Christmas party are held annually for club members and their families. The club programs have consisted of Pre-school Child Study, Problems of School Children, Family Recreation, Home Decorating, Nature Study and Health. This year the club is studying Iowa and find it extremely interesting. Two chartered bus trips to Des Moines have been made, visiting the Betty Baker Show, the Legislature, meeting Mr. Clark McNeal, and Gov. Hoegh, Younkers Tea Room and the Art Center. The club has made donations to Red Cross, March of Dimes, Crippled Children's society, CROP, and Cancer Society.

BETA SIGMA PHI

Beta Sigma Phi is an international non-academic organization, social and cultural in nature. It was founded April 30, 1931, by Walter W. Ross at Abilene, Kansas, and this year celebrates its silver anniversary.

The Belmond, Iowa, Chapter, known as Delta Nu, held its first meeting November 11, 1947. Charter members were: Beverly Thorbrugg, Doris Cline, Dorothy Cline, Imogene Halfpapp, Marjorie Roberts, Ethel Brunen, Elaine Lewis, Alice Jacobmeyer, Margaret Schollian, Adele Fetrow, Joan Fitts, Dorothy Harpham Whitten, Enid Erickson, Lillian Nelson and Agnes Fitzgerald.

There are two meetings each month from Sept. through May plus social meetings throughout the year. The annual Mothers Day breakfast and Easter egg hunt for the small children have become traditional.

Through its international endowment fund this sorority has sponsored scientists in cancer research, and are presently sponsoring a home for girls in Texas, known as Girlstown.

Beta Sigma Phi unites young women in friendship. The ideals of its organization are represented in its Latin Motto, "Vita, Scientia, Amicitia," which means "Life, Learning, and Friendship."

PRISCILLA CLUB

A meeting was held at the home of Mrs. W. E. Bullard, on Wednesday afternoon Oct. 17, 1912, for the purpose of organizing a ladies social club. Those present were the Mesdames Bullard, Fitts, Kinney, Morse, Scarbro, Sheffield, Snyder and Underkoffler. Mrs. F. E. Snyder was elected President and Mrs. Ella Townsan Secretary and Treasurer. The Priscilla Club was the outgrowth of this meeting. The club, purely social in purpose is limited to twenty members, and meets Wednesday afternoon of every other

week. The hostess of each particular meeting furnished refreshments. Its federation was in January, 1920. Present officers are: President, Mrs. C. H. Jennings, Vice President, Mrs. Otto Hanson, Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Orphie Anderson.

KENSINGTON CLUB

The Kensington Club was organized about 1902; some of the Charter members were: Mrs. Jake Reese, Mrs. C. A. Church, Mrs. C. A. Elder, Mrs. E. L. Tiede, Mrs. Charles McGuire, and Mrs. Jim McGuire. The membership has always been 20. In the early days there was an annual banquet for the husbands. It is a Social club. Meets every two weeks on Wednesday afternoon.

HOMEBUILDERS

The Child Study Circle was organized May 26, 1941. Rozella Kling was first President. Meetings were and are still held the first and third Monday evenings of each month. Meetings are opened with devotions. The first year the lessons were on problems of childhood and home life. In December, 1942 the name was changed to Homebuilders Club. At this time the club began to help worthy organizations with donations. Each spring a rummage and food sale is held to raise funds. Lida Greenwood is a charter member.

NEWCOMERS CLUB

Newcomers Club was organized in March, 1955. After a series of coffee parties in the home of the new city hostess, Mrs. John Greenland, it was decided here was a definite need for a Newcomers Club. The Club was organized with about 30 members and have maintained a membership of about 35 ever since. The club meets on the third Wednesday evening of each month and have about four parties a year when the husbands are included. The first three presidents have been — Mrs. Gene Griffin, Mrs. Martin Qualen and the present one, Mrs. Richard McFarlin. The club had a tea last year and entertained local women.

CAMPFIRE GIRLS

Was organized in Belmond in the fall of 1950. The group has grown until it now consists of four Bluebird groups (girls in second, third and fourth grades), three Campfire groups (girls in fifth through eighth grades) and one Horizon Club (High School Girls). Campfire is associated with the Belmond Community Chest and is a member of the Heart of the Hawkeye Council. A field director from the area office visits the local council once a month and assists with program planning, etc. Girls from

Belmond attend camp at Camp Hantesa, the Ledges, near Boone, each summer. The girls have an annual candy sale in the fall, proceeds of which go to maintain and staff Camp Hantesa and help the girls earn money to attend camp. Present officers of the local council are Mrs. R. H. Gowdy, President, Mrs. Robert Garms, Secretary, and C. C. Carstens, Finance chairman.

BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts of America issued a charter in December, 1924, to the first troop—No. 1—organized in Belmond. In the early years of scouting, a log



SCOUT CABIN IN THE GROVE

cabin was erected in Franklin Grove through the efforts of scouts, Dads, and business men. The cabin stood until recently. A new troop was organized as No. 16, with the addition of Cubbing — 8-11 year olds — and Exploring — over 14 years old. There are one hundred boys in scouting at present in Belmond. The present camp site is located on George Elder's property on the Iowa River.



BELMOND BOY SCOUT TROOP NO. 1

4-H GIRLS

P. J. Scarbo, superintendent of Belmond schools was instrumental in helping promote club work in this community. Club work was organized in Belmond in 1914. They had garden, pig, and baby beef clubs. The 1915 Pig club consisted of 2 girls and

some twenty boys. One of these was Cloe Jenison.

She received the prize which gave her a free trip to the short course at Ames in January 1916. While Cloe was at Ames at short course, she was elected the second state secretary of the Iowa boys' and girls' clubs. At this time there was no division between the boys and girls work. A boy was elected as president and a girl as secretary.

World War I interrupted club activities and reorganization followed in the early 20's. The Pleasant Progressing Pals were organized in 1927 with Mrs. A. C. Lieuwen as leader. Arlene Jenison Richardson was the first president.

Depression of 1932 again halted the activities of club work. By 1936, times being better and interest shown, club work was revived and since there were not enough interested girls in Pleasant twp. they combined with girls from Belmond township with Mrs. Lieuwen again as leader. And so club work continued until 1941 when war again stopped activities.

In 1948 Belmond Busy Bees formed with Mrs. E. H. Strait as leader, 4-H here again became active. Since then they have acquired a clubhouse, the former Center schoolhouse in Pleasant township, at which place both the boys and girls clubs meet.

4-H BOYS

The first Boys 4-H Club work began in 1922 with Ralph Edwards as county agent. Rich Thompson was the first active 4-H Club Boy in this part of the county. In 1926 he had the champion purebred litter of pigs over all breeds in the county and won



4-H CLUB PARADE IN 'TWENTIES

a trip to the international at Chicago given by the Northwestern Railway. Paul Tomlinson was county agent in 1926. In the late twenties Rich Thompson was the first leader of 4-H Boys and the club was called the Belmond Boosters. Later Preston Tyrrell was a club leader, and in recent years, Harold Smith, Jim Payne and Richard Eckhoff have been leaders. The boys meet in their recently acquired clubhouse, the former Center schoolhouse in Pleasant township.

Compiled by the members of the Culture Study Club from the following material—

1915 Wright County History

1895 Women's Edition of the Iowa Valley Press

July 30, 1925 Issue — The Independent

October 22, 1931 Issue — The Independent

October 10, 1946 Issue — Belmond Independent

The Belmond Independent Files.

Our special gratitude to those who have loaned us historical material and assisted us in many ways.

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George Coburn, Case Implements

Coffee Shop

R. W. Courson Agency

Dairy Sweet Drive-In

A. R. Dorr Sons, Contractors

Leo Dorr & Son, Contractors

Dougherty Jewelry

Elliott Hdwe. & Appliance

Farmers Grain Co.

Farmers Implement Store

First State Bank

Followwill Implement & Feed Co.

Neil V. Flanagan

Fullerton Lumber Co.

Fulton Funeral Home

General Mills, Inc.

Grace's Beauty Box

H & H Grocery

Helland Beauty Salon

Helland & Long Implement Co.

Roy A. Henderson

Hensel Bros. Produce

Hildman's 5c to \$1 Store

Hill Motel

M. A. Holtzbauer & Son

Iowa Electric Light & Power Co.

Jim's Paint & Wallpaper Store

Joe's Skelly Service

Elmer Johnson, Corn Shelling & General Trucking

Johnston Furniture Store

Jones Standard Service & Cafe

McCormick Cafe & Sinclair Service

Kennedy Furniture

Kennedy Garage

Lloyd's Standard Service

A. W. Loats Insurance Agency

Madsen Plumbing & Heating

Meinders & Bonte

Meints Produce

Mello Maid Ice Cream Shop

Ted Meyer & Sons

Model Dry Cleaners

Russ & Jan's

Dr. A. M. Nelson

Oscar Nelson Gravel Co.

New Belmond Theatre

Nolan Drug

James O'Connor, Livestock Trucking

P & G Grocery

Packard & Jenison Electric Co.

Russell Porter, Standard Oil Products

Ris-Van, Inc.,—Complete Analysis Liquid Fertilizers

Roberts Coal Co.

Rowat-Murray, Engineers

Siesta Motel

Gene Skinner Barber Shop

Smoke Shop

Sorenson's Junk Yard

Spahn & Rose Lumber Co.

Clarence Kirkendall, State Farm Insurance

Steele Memorial Clinic

The Style Shop

Ted's Shoe Store

Thompson & Keleher, Clothiers

Tip Top Super Valu

Tomahawk Hybrid Corn Co.

Tyrrell Stock Farm

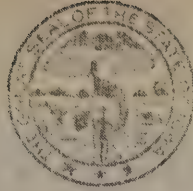
Waddington's Store

Chris Wagner, General Trucking

Western Auto Associate Store—Lloyd Stevens

Wirtz Welding

Woodward's



IOWA
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
DES MOINES

July 16, 1956

LEO A. HOEGH
GOVERNOR

Mr. J. R. Gallagher,
Belmond Centennial, Inc.,
Belmond, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

Thank you for your kind letter of July 12. I wish very much that I might join with you on birthday celebration in August but unfortunately I have previous commitments for August 9 through 12 that prevent me from being with you. Will you please extend to all the citizens of your community both my sincere regrets that I cannot be with you and also my best wishes and congratulations to you on this great occasion.

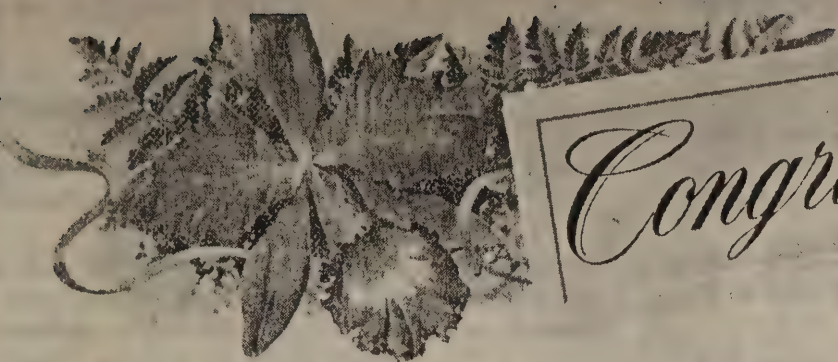
With all good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo A. Hoegh".

LEO A. HOEGH,
Governor of Iowa.

LAH:lb



Congratulations



M WA015 GOVT NL PD WUX WASHINGTON DC JUL 20 1956=

J R GALLAGHER PRESIDENT=

BELMOND CENTENNIAL INC BELMOND IOWA=

ALTHOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT PERMIT ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR
INVITATION PLEASE EXTEND TO ALL THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE
BELMOND CENTENNIAL MY CONGRATULATIONS ON A LONG RECORD OF
PROGRESS AND MY BEST WISHES FOR ANOTHER CENTURY OF
ACHIEVEMENT BY THE COMMUNITY=

DWIGHT D EISENHOWER=

BY WESTERN UNION

Centennial Program

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

- 0:30 a. m. — Kiddies' Parade.
- 1:50 p. m. — Formal Opening of Centennial, Mayor Henry Hokel.
- 2:00 p. m. — Band Concert, Belmond High School Band under direction of Roland Brom.
- 3:00 p. m. — Wright County Women's Chorus under direction of Mrs. Robert Kay, Clarion, presenting a musical pageant, "I Hear America Sing," written by Clare Berg.
- 8:30 p. m. — Bowery Dance, city park tennis court. Music by Calvin Smith's orchestra. Admission by Centennial Badge, only.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

- 10:00 a. m. — Band Concert, Meservey High School Band under direction of Alice Ruiter.
- 10:30 a. m. — Games and Sports program. Cash prizes totaling \$150.
- 1:30 p. m. — Band Concert, Alexander High School Band under direction of Sonia Wilson.
- 2:00 p. m. — Amateur Talent Contest. Cash prizes totaling \$100.
- 4:00 p. m. — Judging of Sisters of the Swish costumes. Prizes totaling \$70.
- 5:00 p. m. — Judging of Brothers of the Brush. Prizes totaling \$70.
- 8:00 p. m. — Centennial Pageant, "Journey into Yesterday," at High School Athletic Field.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

- 9:30 a. m. — Centennial Parade. Cash prizes (including Kiddies' Parade on Thursday) totaling \$350.
- 11:30 a. m. — Centennial Barbecue.
- 12:30 p. m. — Whisker Shaving Contest.
- 2:30 p. m. — Centennial Rodeo, High School Athletic Field.
- 8:00 p. m. — Second Performance, Centennial Pageant.
- 9:00 p. m. — Centennial Dance, Veterans Memorial Hall. Music By The Country Clubbers.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

- Homecomers are cordially invited to attend the church of their choice in the morning.
- 1:00 p. m. — Belmond High School Alumni Association meets at High School Gymnasium.
- 2:00 p. m. — B. H. S. Class Reunions at High School.
- 2:00 p. m. — Second Performance, Centennial Rodeo.
- Open House will be held by various churches, lodges and other organizations during the afternoon. Check at Centennial Headquarters in Library Basement for times and places.
- Note: All program events are being held in the city park, unless otherwise specified.

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